

# USF Research Council

Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 2023

**Present:** Ponrathi Athilingam, Kelli Barr, Feng Cheng, Ganesh Halade, James Leahy, Mark Luther, Taryn Sabia, Kristina Schmidt, David Simmons (Vice-Chair), Marilyn Stern, Jenny Qin

**Absent:** Elizabeth Hadley, Richard Heller (Chair), Kristian Lynch, Emily Shaffer-Hudkins, Kersuze Simeon-Jones

**Also Attending:** Eddie Aikins, Judi Dorn, Eric Kern, Mark McLaughlin, Ben Shnitser

## **Call to Order**

Dr. David Simmons (Vice-Chair), called the meeting of the USF Research Council to order at 12:30 p.m. on September 11, 2023, in-person at the VP of Research Multi-Purpose Room and via Microsoft Teams.

## **Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting**

The August 28, 2023, minutes were approved with one correction: Dr. James Leahy was present.

## **Proposal for the Provost on USF Infrastructure Investment**

The Infrastructure Investment proposal that the Provost asked Research Council to create is nearly final. Dr. David Simmons recapped the document and discussions held with leadership. There appears to be an inclusion of the capital investment initiative. USF is proceeding with the RCM model with shared facilities and the proposal is designed to avoid disruptions or moves. If facilities want to apply for the larger pool of funds, their facility will need to be available to all faculty at USF at an equal rate. It would be appropriate to have regular review to ensure compliance. The proposal will be sent to the Provost with a cover letter, and we would seek meetings thereafter for further discussion.

## **Interdisciplinary Research Awards (IDRA)**

A draft of the purpose and guidelines for the Interdisciplinary Research Awards was shared last meeting and edited by the group. This grant is the most urgent since there are most dollars attached. However, it was noted that the proposed funding amount is aspirational and not yet approved by senior leadership.

IDRA Guidelines discussed:

1. PIs may apply for intra-college funding, as well as two campuses from the same department, but would need to justify why the college is not seed funding it.
2. Open allotments on costs could be submitted and the RC will review the justifications.
3. Whether or not to allow tuition to be paid on the grant will need to be further defined, as well as fringe benefits.
4. A provision will be added for instances where a targeted grant has previously been applied for but has not gotten over the funding line. They must show that they've achieved their goals and reported on the outcome before they re-apply for further funds.
5. We will request and track a description of outcomes from prior USF internal award funding.
6. Research Council strives for faculty shared governance to fund centers rather than relying solely on administrators.
7. The IDRA should cover more than infrastructure. Possibly include summer salary for some research positions.

We hope to submit the Call for Proposals within the next month, and will work on the instructions, guidelines, and application drafts.

### **Discussion of Core Facilities Matching Grant**

The Core Facilities Matching Grant (CFMG) was further discussed. The grant would provide a one-to-one dollar match, up to \$5,000 per grant year for the entire grant period. Early Career faculty will be prioritized. There should also be reasonable diversity among colleges and campuses. The question was raised of how the student will support the grant. It was noted that since students must be included in the grant, the benefits may be the biggest challenge to pay for. Please email Dr. Simmons if you can volunteer to finalize the guidelines.

### **Other Business**

No further business.

### **Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 25, but was later cancelled in recognition of Yom Kippur. The next meeting will be held October 9.