

University Research Committee

Summary of Activities, 2020-2021 Academic Year

27 May 2021

The URC conducted eight 90-minute meetings during the 2020-2021 academic year (9/24/2020, 10/19/2020, 11/16/2020, 12/15/2020, 1/11/2021, 2/16/2021, 3/16/2021, and 4/22/2021); this was an increase over the traditional six-meeting schedule of the past several years. Dr. Abigail Norris Turner (Infectious Diseases, Internal Medicine) served as Chair and Dr. Eric Johnson (University Libraries) as Vice-Chair. Professor Cinnamon Carlarne (Law) has been elected as chair for the 2021-22 academic year.

The 2020-2021 activities of the URC focused on five primary areas:

1. *Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on the research community*

While discussion of COVID-19 naturally dominated URC meetings all year, two practical examples of how the URC engaged this area are noted:

- a. Key affected groups: building on a survey that The Women's Place conducted over summer 2020, we met with various campus constituencies including post-doctoral scholars and graduate students to learn more about how COVID-19 had affected their scholarship and productivity. The Office of Research conducted a follow-up survey on these topics in Spring 2021.
- b. Budget: we examined how university cost-cutting measures resulting from the COVID-19 economic crisis affected scholarship; this included topics such as researchers' ability to access their own grant funds; slowdowns in hiring; travel restrictions; requirements to purchase PPE and other pandemic-associated mitigation measures, and related topics.

2. *Buckeye Box to OneDrive/MS Teams transition*

Over the year, we had six meetings during and outside of the regular URC schedule with various individuals connected to the University's transition away from Box, including IT representatives from the medical center and the university, client managers for Box and MS Teams, and the OCIO's office. These conversations continue at the time of this writing, and were raised to President Johnson in April 2021. To date, after Box is no longer available in December 2021, it remains unclear how researchers will be able to store, share and download protected data across OSU (in particular, between researchers based at the medical center and those in other areas of campus) and outside of OSU (for example, with colleagues at other institutions).

3. *Workday*

The URC became a repository for researchers to share difficulties they encountered with the Workday transition. The URC then amplified these concerns to the appropriate offices on campus. We had excellent response and support from the Office of Research in addressing these concerns, although some problems persist, including with delegation authority, certain unconventional personnel categories (e.g., emeritus faculty not drawing salary), and procurement).

4. *Data security*

The URC was briefed twice on the university's new "high-risk person protection program" – once before a pilot of this program rolled out, and once after – which involves installing monitoring

software on university devices to identify suspicious activity and/or data breaches. We offered extensive feedback to the team charged with implementing this program to all university users in the future, including clearer communication about what is being monitored, recorded, and stored (and for how long), which devices are involved, and what information will be shared back with users or their supervisors.

5. *Research Integrity Standing Committee (RISC)*

As in past years, the URC worked closely with the Office of Research Compliance to operationalize recent changes to OSU’s Research Misconduct policies. As of April 2021, a pool of more than 50 faculty have been identified as the inaugural cohort of the RISC. Individuals with relevant expertise will be drawn from this pool when credible research misconduct allegations arise. A subgroup of the URC also developed guidelines for the RISC, including setting expectations for composition, representation, diversity, conflicts of interest, length of term, confidentiality, training and other aspects.

2020-2021 URC Roster

MEMBER	SOURCE	TERM EXPIRES
Rita Pickler	Faculty Council	2023
Brian Focht	Faculty Council	2023
Mara Frazier	Faculty Council	2023
Thaddeus Ezeji	Faculty Council	2022
Eric Johnson	Faculty Council	2022
William Minozzi	Faculty Council	2022
Jan Lang	Faculty Council	2022
Abigail Norris Turner	Faculty Council	2022
Cinnamon Carlarne	Faculty Council	2022
Purnima Kumar	Faculty Council	2021
Joseph Heremans	Faculty Council	2021

MEMBER	SOURCE	TERM EXPIRES
Lisa Voigt	Presidential	2023
Edward Taketa	Presidential	2023
Moray Campbell	Presidential	2022
Anne Kloos	Presidential	2022
Sunny Zong	Research Staff	2022
Emily Needam	USG	2021
David Hibler	CGS	2021
Jenna Greve	CGS	2021
James Gallagher	IPC	2021
Sara Elgamal	Postdoc	2021
Emily Bowman*	Postdoc (non-voting)	2021
Michele Basso	Senate Fiscal Committee Chair	N/A
Alicia Bertone	Dean, Graduate School (non-voting)	N/A
Morley Stone	SVP, Research (non-voting)	N/A

* replaced midyear by Chia Sharpe, when Dr. Bowman left OSU for a new position