

BFC Research Affairs Committee

February 9, 2024 Meeting

Present: Ben Kravitz (Co-Chair), Jillian Kinzie (Co-Chair), Dan Tracey, Wen Qi, Karen Rogers, Cindy Hmelo-Silver, Seth Freedman, Kaylie Hash, Scott Michaels, Lana Spendl

Minutes were approved for January 12, 2024.

Brea is unable to join us for the remainder of the semester. Kaylie Hash will join us and report on Brea's behalf. Scott Michaels, Assistant Vice President for Centers and Core Facilities plans to attend our meetings.

Ben introduces the first item of business, updates from OVPR. Space planning meetings are happening currently, including a review of consultant's information. Scott updated the committee on space and building. Plan is for IU to borrow \$45M in bonds, but this still must be approved by the state. There are plans to borrow, but the exact plans for how these funds will be used is yet to be determined. Brea and Scott are charged with making recommendations by next week (Feb 14). Making high level, overlapping, multiple options. President and Provost will ultimately make decisions. The money is earmarked for 8 locations, including the classified research facility in the former Hoosier Energy Building. Everything else is to be determined but will likely involve space modifications in MESH (old Cyclotron Building), MSB II, Biology, Simon, Chemistry, Geology, and Swain. The main plan is to create space for faculty 100 hires and of course, to create better labs for others to move into as well. Scott explains that there has been no formal discussion at this stage about moving people.

A committee member asked about the ECG report. Scott explained that the report is not here yet. The report will suggest big picture recommendations. Scott offers assurances that moves will be designed to help faculty and staff get better facilities.

Scott provided information about the annual review of Research Centers. IU Research is under Russ, and this involves about 20-25 Centers that live and are administered by IU Research. However, there are broader policies that apply to all Centers, Museums and Institutes (as many as 300 across IU campuses) that require regular reviews. The "regular review" requirement is important for institutional accreditation in that institutions are expected to follow their own policy. However, IU can't currently verify if these units are being reviewed annually.

Karen asked about Lab Animal Resources (LAR) and its classification as a Center. LAR was moved to John Bauman in compliance. Yet, the LAR is listed under Centrally Administered Centers, Institutes, Museums and Service Centers (CIMS) on the [website](#). This seems unclear.

Scott clarifies that he does not expect to have responsibilities for School-based Centers.

Ben reported on the policy updates on Research Ranks. He indicated that there are not a lot of updates, the current document is in the BFC Research Affairs Teams folder. He has received a few comments on the policy, but mostly questions asking for clarification. Some comments have been made about wording changes, or things that are beyond the scope of the policy. The primary questions have been about how the policy will be implemented once it rolls out.

Ben reminded the committee that the policy itself is not designed to be overly prescriptive. Most of the details will be up to unit policy committees, it will be up to departments to identify who can move into what track. Ultimately, decisions will be up to VPFAA. Once policy goes into place there will be an explanation document about how to enact it. Ben had some of this specified in the document but was advised to remove it to be clear about the larger ideas first. The idea here is that this should be a shared governance issue, enacted through unit policy committees and VPFAA. Judah Cohen associate vice provost for faculty and academic affairs has provided guidance in this regard.

Ben then initiates a roundtable: Is there anything this Committee needs to know about from your area and work?

Wen provided an update on replacing Digital Measures. We are moving closer to making a recommendation about a new model. The initial technical implementation will likely be turbulent, a 12-18 month engagement. Faculty feedback was helpful and is guiding the product choice. The hope is that what is in Digital Measures will be transferred into the new system, vendors expect this to be an easy fix, and the new system will scrape the internet to find publications to reduce manual data entry.

Karen explains new regulations from the USDA on birds. Previously, birds were unregulated. Observing birds previously received a superficial review. Under the new regulations, all birds used in any study that involves an invasive procedure, harms, or materially alters the behavior of an animal under the study, but excluding birds bred for use in research, animals used for food, fiber, or other agricultural purposes and privately owned pets. Regulations are already implemented.

Still getting many concerns about Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and the timely approval of protocols. Review is taking 6-7 weeks at times, to the detriment of research. We don't want to inhibit PI research via the review process. This concern has been addressed to John Bauman. In addition, people are no longer being notified that their training has lapsed. Researchers are getting an email that their training has lapsed, but no reminder was offered. Communication has been insufficient under the new IACUC structure. Ben has raised this with VP Mumper, who is aware of the IACUC concerns.

ORA is putting out a new IP policy. PIs will get 50% of commercialization proceeds. The goal is to encourage patents and commercialization. The rest of the policy will be put out to comment in the next week or so. It seems reasonable, but there is some complicated legal language.

VPR looking to implement a research professional track. These are staff not faculty roles with the goal of being able to act quickly on vital research expertise without concern about faculty pay bands. This is a way to get research expertise at industry pay levels.

Reminder: We have reserved first reading of the revised BL-ACA-A5, March 5 and second reading on April 2.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm. Respectfully submitted by Jillian Kinzie