

Research Affairs Committee  
Meeting on March 8, 2024

In attendance: Jillian Kinzie, Karen Rogers, Ashley Clark, Kaylie Hash Porter, Scott Michaels, Ben Kravitz, Cindy Hmelo-Silver, Lana Spendl

We began with approval of the February minutes.

Next were updates from OVPR as reported by Scott Michaels and Kaylie Hash Porter.

They have spent the last 2 months doing annual reviews for centers and core facilities, and they are almost finished. Action won't happen until next month when IU Research finds out about their budget, and then they can give out center budgets, new requests, etc.

They are planning for \$45M in lab renovations. Recommendations have been sent to University Administration. There will be a meeting on 3/21 regarding next steps. ARC, MESH, Geology, MSB II, Biology, Chemistry, Simon, Swain West were on the list in October. The President wanted the final list by Feb 15.

ARC is more or less taken care of and has its own plans. MESH has high bay rooms (70 foot ceilings with cranes), which could be good for specific lab space. Putting in plumbing is difficult with a 42-inch concrete floor, but that could be very good for vibrations.

Most of the work centered on the existing campus buildings. There is an attempt to consolidate animal facilities. MSB II has the nicest facilities for animal use because a lot of effort was put into optimizing space in this building. There is also a need to figure out where to put new Faculty 100 hires. RCM affects physical space on campus, meaning it has ultimately been up to the units to renovate, and the College has not been flush with cash in the past years. There are lots of derelict labs that are sitting empty, and these could be renovated right now without needing to move people. We can't recruit rising stars into a lab space that hasn't been updated in 70 years.

Aging Research Network and Environmental Research Networks have been formed as strategic area responses to IU2030. The networks will produce biweekly digests, and leadership has been identified. They are looking into communication and collaboration options.

Next Ben provided an update on the research ranks policy. There was a first reading this week on March 5, and a second is scheduled for April 2. There was not a great deal of controversy, and in general the BFC was supportive of it. BL-ACA-A5 can be rolled out quickly, but there are next-stage questions about how that rollout happens and who does it. Lana has asked for priorities or lists of things that need to be done. We have sample language for the schools that we can send out. It would be good to set up a meeting with VPFAA to talk about next steps.

A future priority may be to repeal BL-ACA-A1, as it's currently a mess.

We then moved into a roundtable discussion. Karen gave an update on animal facilities. We are still awaiting a ruling from AAALAC regarding accreditation. Managers of animal facilities have a two-bedroom apartment reserved so they don't have to drive into campus for the eclipse. They are encouraging everyone not to do any studies the weekend of the eclipse. They did a tabletop exercise on 2/27 (parking, security, dorms, food service, etc.) Overall the preparation for the eclipse has been thorough.

Next Ben provided updates from the UFC RAC. We were given an opportunity by Mike Jenson to comment on updates to UA-17 on nepotism. The revisions seem reasonable. There was no new available information about the new Research Professionals track. The final decision about the Kinsey Institute seems to have gone well, and the decision was not to spin it off into a separate 501(c)(3).

The meeting adjourned at 11:38 AM.