

Minutes from:

Research Affairs Committee meeting, October 11, 2022 (Zoom)

In attendance: Ben Kravitz (Co-chair), Sally Letsinger (Co-chair), Brea Perry (OVPR), Ashley Clark, Karen Rogers, Ethan Fridmanski, Jillian Kinzie, Seth Freedman, Dan Tracey

Committee files (meeting minutes and other relevant documents) are stored in a Microsoft Teams folder with a very long path – this one is shortened: <https://tinyurl.com/t9nxu572>

October 11, 2022 1:00pm – 2:15pm

1. Approve minutes from September 13, 2022 BFC RAC meeting (see attached).
2. Ben Kravitz gave a short overview of the strategic planning initiative at IU (IU Strategic Plan 2030), noting that 300 faculty nominations had been made to participate in the process under the guidance of the Provost. The timeline of the process is designed to align with budgeting timelines for the next fiscal year, and will wrap up by the end of February 2023. There are three pillars of the plan (Student Success, Transformative Research, and Service (to Indiana and beyond). The link to the Bloomington planning process is: <https://iub2030.indiana.edu>. Within the pillars are numerous working groups, and RAC is represented in the Student Success and Opportunity group by Jillian Kinzie, and in the Transformative Research and Creativity/Centers, Institutes and Museums group by Ashley Clark.

2. Vice Provost Perry provided an update for the ongoing reorganization of research administration at Indiana University (Bloomington and Indianapolis). She described a process in constant flux*, but one that was slowly improving. The committee was updated on a meeting and an associated memo presented from the BFC Research Reorganization Task Force to the Provost, which expressed opposition to the current reorganization plans. Vice Provost Perry has contributed her perspective (advocating for IUB) on the memo and the reorganization to the Provost, and the Provost is now considering all of the input.

Vice Provost Perry went through some of the deliberations that the “small” group making the reorganization decisions were having, regarding the offices and operations that would be best at the University Administration (UA) level, and those that would best serve individual campuses. Services such as corporate relations and proposal development services, for example, would likely be effective under UA, but some internal funding programs that are campus specific and research centers would be better to stay under campus leadership.

Discussion by the full committee included a request for a reclarification of what advantages were being sought for the consolidation/integration, with Vice Provost Perry explaining that the explanation (from those seeking the consolidation) was that efficiencies were being sought including reducing duplication of tasks/programs, and increasing communication and collaboration across and between campuses.

[*NOTE: On October 13, 2022, research staff received notice that VPR Fred Cate would be stepping down from UA and return to the faculty at the end of June 2022.]

4. Ethan Fridmanski provided an overview of upcoming changes to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Data Sharing policy that take place in January 2023.

NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy <https://research.iu.edu/policies/nih-data-mgmt-sharing-policy.html>

Recorded talk about the upcoming policy https://iu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/t/1_eieuen69

Key provisions of the policy include:

- There is a new definition of scientific data: *“The recorded factual material commonly accepted in the scientific community as of sufficient quality to validate and replicate research findings, regardless of whether the data are used to support scholarly publications. Scientific data do not include laboratory notebooks, preliminary analyses, completed case report forms, drafts of scientific papers, plans for future research, peer reviews, communications with colleagues, or physical objects, such as laboratory specimens.”*
- Beginning January 2023, all funding proposals that result in the generation of scientific data to the NIH must include a Data Management and Sharing (DMS) Plan, which will describe a plan for managing and sharing the resulting scientific data.
- Data must be in open data repositories.
- The NIH is strongly encouraging researchers to consider options for sharing human subjects data that retain protections, such as de-identification or controlled access sharing.
- The timeline for sharing data is "no later than the time of publication or the end of the award or support period, whichever comes first."

In presenting this information to researchers, concerns have been raised about the time it will take to comply with the policy, as well as capacities of existing data repositories in the IU Library system. Existing systems have file-size limitations, and other technical issues. DOI generation is currently manual and the policy could stretch repository services.

The policy is part of a larger initiative from the Federal government (White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, see: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2022/08/25/ostp-issues-guidance-to-make-federally-funded-research-freely-available-without-delay/>) to make federally funded research available to the public through open archives (no pay wall).

In the open committee discussion that followed Ethan’s presentation, questions were asked about the benefits of having a dedicated data repository versus outsourcing. The response was that IU is seeking a perpetual archive and outsourced repositories generally only guarantee (or contract?) for 10 years at a time.

Vice Provost Perry advised Ethan (and his team members) to confer with Prof. Kosali Simon and Diane Dallis-Comentale, who are working to establish an Indiana University Research Data Commons (IU-RDC). <https://research.impact.iu.edu/more-iu-research/stories/research-data-commons-working-group.html>

5. Group discussion:

- a. Discipline-specific data sharing, security, and archiving policies, practices, and protocols.

Ethan’s presentation covered this topic for this meeting.

- b. Student (especially undergraduate) research opportunities.

Although Amangul was not able to attend the meeting, we had a discussion involving ideas on undergraduate research opportunities. The discussion included incentivizing faculty to include undergraduates in their research, as well as the issues of how students identify research faculty, labs, and opportunities. It was noted that individual departments often have seminars or meet/greet

sessions with research-active faculty and students, but scheduling conflicts can mean that a one-time-only event does not make the intended connections. An example was given of a program in Biology called “Lunch” that provides a voucher for a student to take a faculty member to lunch and engage them on research or other academic topics.

Development of a centralized repository of faculty and projects was discussed. Existing possibilities on campus could be included, such as:

ASURE: Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Experience
<https://college.indiana.edu/academics/opportunities/asure/index.html>

STARS: Science and Technology Research Scholars
<https://college.indiana.edu/research/undergraduate-research/stars/index.html>

Cox Research Scholarship
<https://coxscholars.indiana.edu/scholarships/cox-research-scholarship.html>

Walter Center for Career Achievement
<https://careers.college.indiana.edu/>

Sustainability Scholars
<https://sustain.iu.edu/research/scholars/index.html>

Engaged Learning
<https://engagedlearning.indiana.edu/about-us/index.html>

c. Faculty-retention issues.

The discussion regarding faculty retention updated the committee on elements of the first faculty town hall (September 13, 2022) that identified that multiple diversity initiatives have brought in new faculty, retained them for seven years (through achieving tenure), and then lost them. It is clear that retention is an issue that needs a long-term resolution. The strategic planning process underway at IU/IUB has a working group on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion across the Research Enterprise in the pillar Transformative Research and Creativity, but retention does not explicitly appear to be included. It is also not just under-represented faculty who are leaving.

Some insights might be able to be gleaned from the recently compiled Faculty Satisfaction Survey for 2019 published by the VPFAA. <https://vpfaa.indiana.edu/faculty-resources/professional-development/faculty-satisfaction-survey.html>. Wen Qi was closely involved in that effort, but she was not able to attend the meeting, so we will catch up with her next month to get her insights.

It was noted that there is a program at IUPUI Office for Women called EMPOWER (Enhanced Mentoring Program with Opportunities for Ways to Excel in Research) that is intended as a retention program for research-active women faculty. There is a similar program being initiated at IUB that is modeled on that program by Sherry Knighton-Schwandt (IUB, OVPR).

6. Other discussion items, action items, updates.

A question was brought up that had great traction with the group concerning provisions for parental leave for NTT research faculty. The question was about how to handle parental leave for NTT research faculty (research scientists). Specifically, it involved how to pay the salary of the faculty member during the leave from externally funded research project budgets and still accomplish the

work. Two examples came out of the discussion – one was paying the salary of the person, as budgeted, and having the assigned work incomplete or deferred (generally unacceptable). The second example was paying the salary of the person, as budgeted (usually allowed by funding agencies), but coming up with other funds to pay for replacement personnel to accomplish the work (these funds do not usually exist, at least for this purpose). The second example appeared to have no known procedure and certainly no known existing funds other than which the unit or lab could devise (appropriate or inappropriate). Three members of the RAC have experienced this issue in their labs or research projects.

Sally followed up (with the assistance of Director of Faculty Council Offices Lana Spendl's) with the BFC Benefits Committee, then Judah Cohen (Associate Vice Provost of VPFAA), and then VPFAA Eliza Pavalko. Vice Provost Pavalko will be joining the November RAC committee meeting to talk through this topic with us.

7. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm

BFC Research Affairs Committee 2022-2023
Ben Kravitz, Co-chair
Sally Letsinger, Co-chair (2021-2022 RAC Chair)
Brea Perry, Vice Provost for Research
Ashley Clark
Wen Qi
Ethan Fridmanski
Karen Rogers
Jillian Kinzie
Seth Freedman
Dan Tracey
Undergrad student rep: Amangul Hydyrova
Grad student rep: TBD

Link to Microsoft Teams folder for RAC documents:
<https://tinyurl.com/t9nxu572>