Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to order
2. Chair’s Welcome and Charge Letter Review
3. Review minutes from June 10, 2020
4. Update to restricted research waiver request form to mention UW Office of Export Control
5. Good of the order
6. Review and vote on restricted research proposal
7. Adjourn

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. Chair’s Welcome and Charge Letter Review

Chair Marwick updated the council with the announcement of a new council co-chair, Sara Kover. The council reviewed the 2020-2021 draft charge letter (Exhibit 1). The chair asked members to provide feedback.

A member noted their departmental mandatory diversity training had a new term ‘jedi’ and asked if FCR should be concerned about the impact of promotion for researchers. The council would like to help departments with promotion assessment and inform them it is acceptable to lower expectations from this last year due to COVID-19. This could be a potential Class C resolution. Another member noted that other councils are dealing with faculty expectations in this current climate of increased caregiver responsibilities. Vice-Chair of the Faculty Senate Chris Laws remarked having councils cooperate could influence future legislation to address the various issues of equity and inclusion. They encouraged the council to utilize a Class C resolution in the potential creation of a Class A. FCR may also work with other councils on sexual orientation harassment in research.

Another member remarked that NIH funding for minority researchers has been a continued topic of discussion in their department. They would like to examine what entities are supporting these activities and applications. Mary Lidstrom (Presidential Designee) noted that Office of Research (OR) launched a diversity & equity website with a partial list of resources. A workshop in January 2020, between the School of Public Health, School of Medicine, and Seattle Children’s Hospital provided information about NIH diversity supplements and how to apply. OR is looking for resources to assist undergraduate research, graduate research, external & internal funding. It is difficult to find all resources but OR is checking monthly. It was suggested that FCR mobilize its members, and their individual units, to forward any individual knowledge of resources to Lidstrom.
Lidstrom also noted that there have been no surveys done yet to examine the impacts of COVID but there are national surveys. They have 2 funding programs (provost funds) for the Fall 2020 which are now using COVID-19 impacts as an additional criterion. Unfortunately, there are no additional funds, just a re-prioritization of the existing funding. Priority is for the most vulnerable from the impacts of COVID, especially caregivers. Some criteria require a researcher to have lost all their research funds or be able to show the researcher missed their deadline which would result in the loss of all future funding. Lidstrom mentioned there have been remarks of survey fatigue. They advised surveys should only be used if there is a plan to mitigate issues. A member mentioned they have already completed 2 surveys and emphasized their exhaustion with evaluations.

National level funding foundations are providing much flexibility, allowing researchers to extend their deadline for those most impacted with caregiving responsibilities. Some institutions are allowing investigators no-cost extensions. Many UW internal programs have that automatically in effect. Lidstrom noted they are lobbying at the national level to encourage automatic no-cost extensions across the board. A member suggested they consider more communication about these flexibilities to the entire research community.

Lidstrom also remarked that clinical trials have had some progressions, but there must be a health issue being addressed in the clinical trial for them to continue. This is a combination of human subjects division regulations and Institute of Translational Health Sciences (ITHS) prioritization.

Council members will consider the COVID-19 impact response programs in other research communities and how they could be established at the UW. A member noted that despite the no-cost extensions, spending continued during COVID to pay for salaries and other necessities. They asked about the future of allowing transfer of funds in grants. Lidstrom noted there are flexibilities to re-budget, but researchers need to work with program officer in their agency – it is not automatic. At the national level, organizations such as the Association of American Universities (AAU) have been advocating for supplements to research. The current stimulus package in draft at congress is on hold due to political issues. A member stated the nature of all work has completely changed and time-sensitive proposals will be hard for the most vulnerable and impacted researchers to submit. Lidstrom remarked the supplemental monies would provide for the last research year. Federal agencies are also very aware of caregiver situation and working toward a solution.

Lidstrom will provide an overview of the foreign interference on research to the council at the next meeting. A member asked about guidelines for faculty if they suspect foreign influence on research. There are no specific steps, but there is a contact at the OR. They are considering more explicit directives.

A member noted a topic about transparency in the process of PI’s accused of sexual harassment of their research scientist. This could be part of the allies program which involves point people (not necessarily those in authority) whom victims of harassment can go to. The council will invite relevant speakers on this issue to discuss further.

3. **Review minutes from June 10, 2020**

The minutes from June 10, 2020 were approved as written.

4. **Update to restricted research waiver request form to mention UW Office of Export Control**
FRC was asked by Joe Giffels to consider adding an additional step to their restricted research proposal form. The Export Controls Office (ECO) is looking for a way to be notified of international/foreign research that they can provide additional guidance on. Some research that should be flagged by the export controls office may slip through other review processes and FCR would add a small additional step. The council agreed to update the FCR restricted research form asking researchers if they have discussed their work with the ECO.

5. **Good of the order**

Nothing was stated.

6. **Review and vote on restricted research proposal**

Chair Marwick encouraged voting council members to consider joining the restricted research subcommittee.

The council reviewed a restricted research contract from the Applied Physics Lab – UW. The primary investigator is Dr. Sarah Webster.

The council made a motion to approve. The motion was approved.

The council reviewed another restricted research contract from Freenome. The primary investigator is Dr. Cynthia Ko.

Chair Marwick will discuss concerns about publication delays with the primary researcher and return to the council for final review. This proposal will be conditionally approved if the primary researcher has no concerns.

7. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

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**Present:**

**Faculty Code Section 21-61 A:** Mike Averkiou, Nicole Gibran, Francis Kim, Sara Kover, Ben Marwick, Thomas Humphries  
**Faculty Code Section 21-61 B:** Michael Rosenfeld, Larry Pierce, Jennifer Muilenburg, Jacob Vigdor  
**President’s designee:** Mary Lidstrom  
**Guests:** Chris Laws, Lynette Arias, Carol Rhodes,

**Absent:**

**Faculty Code Section 21-61 A:** Donald Chi, Brandi Cossairt, Charles Frevert

**Exhibits**

Exhibit 1 - FCR 2020-2021 charge letter
Dear Professor Marwick:

The Faculty Council on Research is charged with responsibility “for all matters of policy relating to research and scholarship” (Faculty Code, Sec 42-37). Activities historically performed include reviewing any requests for approval submitted by a principle investigator (PI) who is entering into a contract which creates restrictions to the University’s research and academic mission – reporting council vote results to Faculty Senate leadership; addressing research-related issues, inquiries, and interests on behalf of UW faculty, especially by way of inviting key administrators for providing supplementary information and for receiving council feedback and guidance on topics at-hand.

Our recommendation is that the council identify specific goals that can be accomplished by the end of the 2020-21 academic year.

The Senate office did a background review to help identify goals for your council. This included review of minutes from last year’s meetings, review of discussions at Faculty Senate meetings, and selected outreach for topics. Recommended goals and / or topics for discussion include:

- Addressing issues related to the National Institute of Health (NIH) including funding for minority researchers and salary caps
- Discussing an “allies program” to address sexual orientation harassment, as noted from the UW climate survey
- Foreign interference on research
- Messaging to the UW community on equity and inclusion in research
- Continue working on Class C resolutions
- Examining impacts of COVID-19 on faculty research in conjunction with the Faculty Council on Women in Academia and Faculty Council on Multicultural Affairs
- Core Facilities with the Office of Research

After your first council meeting, we will be available to discuss the goals your council identified. Thereafter, we will post your council’s goals on the Faculty Senate website to communicate the important work you are doing.

Many thanks to you and the members of your council, on behalf of Senate Leadership and the faculty of the University, for all your time and work this coming year. I wish you all the best and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely
Robin Angotti
Chair, Faculty Senate