Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to order
2. Review of the minutes from May 13, 2020
3. Update on transparency in animal research
4. Update on Class C resolution on promotion of transparency and openness in research
5. Update on Class C resolution on community engaged scholarship
6. Senate request for FCR to follow up on grad student researchers, particularly the issues they’re facing during COVID
7. Agenda items for next year
8. Good of the order
9. Review and vote on restricted research proposal
10. Adjourn

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. Review of the minutes from May 13, 2020

The minutes from May 13, 2020 were approved as written.

3. Update on transparency in animal research

Chair Marwick noted that the provost supports the creation of a taskforce to address this transparency issue. The taskforce will include Mary Lidstrom. The chair and Lidstrom will work with the provost to identify additional members for the taskforce to begin Autumn 2020.

4. Update on Class C resolution on promotion of transparency and openness in research

Chair Marwick shared a draft of the resolution and asked the council for their feedback.

The draft is ready to send to chairs of faculty councils for feedback. The chair will also reach out to the Board of Directors and Chairs to include this resolution on their agenda. There will be an update next month to address in the next council meeting.

5. Update on Class C resolution on community engaged scholarship

Chair Marwick shared a draft of the resolution for council member feedback.

The council will look toward the Community Engagement Steering Committee for guidance on how to define community engaged scholarship (CES). The council has been invited to make changes of the faculty code on defining CES as Class A Legislation. A draft is in progress.
A member noted that other universities defining CES are using information from specific UW departments which have a consensus on community engaged scholarship and rubrics.

Another member stated that if faculty are rewarded for CES, staff should also be included in this reward system. A member mentioned Harborview had concern when they were not immediately notified about research involving staff as it became a union issue. A solution may include a notion that unionized staff must notify their supervisors. Further guidance will be considered.

6. Senate request for FCR to follow up on graduate student researchers, particularly the issues they’re facing

All researchers, including graduate students, fall under clear guidelines which note they are not required to come to their normal site of work or field site during COVID-19. They also cannot be pressured to come in, although not all PIs are following these rules. There are guidelines online to follow if research fellows or graduate students feel pressured. These research regulations, including social distancing, are not expected to change through Phase 4.

The Office of Research and UW Graduate School will provide as much information and support as possible, although there is only so much STEM students can do online. Advisory groups are getting information out through departments. Lidstrom encouraged council members to send suggestions to the Office of Research on how to address this. One recommendation was to prohibit graduate students entry into labs or campus facilities. However, as funding is running out, researchers have needed to come in to finish their work and earn their degrees. Deadline driven issues will continue to evolve as we get further into the summer.

A member asked for clarification on NIH training grants. Students and post docs would be paid no matter how much work is done, due to COVID-19. In the next stimulus package, currently in congressional debate, there is discussion of funds to supplement research. There is little information on the stipulations of application for these additional grants. No public universities have furloughed research students yet.

A member questioned if the research guidelines must be followed by health care researchers or custodians. Social distancing will still be in-place as these individuals are required to come to campus unless they have a pre-existing health condition, but some are uncomfortable in coming to work due to COVID-19.

The chair will ask Mahoney to send an email to graduate students to highlight this information. This was previously done in March, but a member noted this should also be sent to faculty, PI, and staff. The best way to handle this is to send notifications to graduate department coordinators who then can distribute the information accordingly. Another suggestion noted the PSO newsletter to send information.

There is a separate FAQ document on the Office of Research’s webpage with a specific notation about graduate student pressures. A member noted their department has an anonymous research concern form which students have expressed their appreciation of. All departments in the School of Medicine have this as policy but this would be useful to include in other colleges.

Members would also like to address the layers of stress felt by post-doctoral students and graduate students such as caregiving responsibilities, childcare, or reduced income. There is also a lot of anxiety from POC graduate researchers and members want to identify the best ways to support them. Some UW departments are hosting spaces for reflection and discussion on ways, as a division, they can change to support minority researchers.
7. Agenda items for next year

The Chair asked the council to provide topics of interest to address in the next academic year.

FCR will continue to address these Class C resolutions, foreign influence in research, and shared resources. Members identified the escalating tensions with China as greatly impacting research visas and increasing attempts to appropriate research. COVID-19 has also limited the shared resources and facilities. UW is not likely to have funding to consider shared resources over the next few years, but members will continue to work on this and provide FCR with updates next year.

A member noted there was a recent report on the NIH funding being lower for minority researchers and asked if FCR could tackle this. Suggestions included providing more messaging to the community on equity and inclusion. Another member suggested having an FCR member on the tri-campus diversity council to represent UW’s large research population.

Other members would like to include sexual orientation harassment, as noted from climate survey. FCR will invite members of the school of medicine to discuss “allies program”. A council member noted undergraduate researchers should also be included.

FCR will continue discussions on the impacts of these research climates due to COVID-19 social distancing.

8. Good of the order

Mary Lidstrom noted awards have increased by 3% compared to the previous year high number of awards. Expenditures are also up by about 2%, although not as high as predicted – likely due to a lack of ordered supplies.

Guidance for field work is out and will increase in the summer as it is allowed under certain circumstances. There is a process for international field work, but it requires extraordinary circumstances.

9. Review and vote on restricted research proposal

The council reviewed a restricted research contract with the Texas A&M University. Samuel K Wasser is the principal investigator.

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

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Minutes by Alexandra Portillo, xanport@uw.edu, council analyst

Present: Faculty Governance Section 42-32 A: Mike Averkiou, Brandi Cossairt, Charles Frevert, Francis Kim, Sara Kover, Gillian Marshall, Ben Marwick (chair)
Faculty Code Section 21-61 B: Larry Pierce, Jennifer Muilenburg
Faculty Code Section 21-61 C: Mary Lidstrom
Invited Guests: Janice DeCosmo
Absent:  

**Faculty Governance Section 42-32 A:** Nicole Gibran, Donald Chi, Michael Rosenfeld  
**Faculty Code Section 21-61 B:** JoAnn Taricani  
**Faculty Code Section 21-61 C:** Stewart Tolnay