

**University Research Council  
Meeting of September 27, 2024**

**Attendees:** Nigamanth Sridhar, Chair  
Roman Kondratov (Ex-Officio Member)  
Benjamin Ward (Ex-Officio Member)

Collins, Cyleste	Rachel Lovell	Souther, Mark
Collins, Lauren	Resnick, Andy	Sun, Xue-Long
DeBoth Foust, Kelle	Rubin, Eran	Voight, Adam
Kumar, Sathish	Schearer, Eric	Wajda, Doug
Ning, Liqun		

**Absent/Excused:** Chien, Steven                      Espy, Debbie  
Choi, David

Dr. Kondratov called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda for the September 27, 2024 Meeting  
Approved and seconded as written
  
2. New Research Leadership
  - Dr. Meredith Bond retired from CSU on August 15, 2024
  - Dr. Nigamanth Sridhar will now provide leadership to the Office of Research as the Interim Vice President for Research
  - There will not be any reduction in services provided by the Office of Research
  
3. Introduction of URC Members
  - URC members were introduced as the newly constructed University Research Council consisting of twelve regular members, three at-large members, a Graduate Council representative, and corresponding members
  - URC members are expected to assist the Office of Research with the development and introduction of new policies, guide and review internal awards, and serve as a liaison between the office and their respective colleges
  
4. Office of Research Updates
  - a. Budget
    - Due to budgetary constraints, the Graduate Faculty Research Support (GFRSP) and the Reduced Teaching Research Facilitation (RTRF) Programs have been paused
    - GFRSP was originally introduced when travel support at the university was cut. Now that faculty members have Article 26 funds available for them to use, the GFRSP will need to be restructured.

- As soon as AAUP negotiations have concluded, discussions will start to bring back a restructured GFRSP
- b. Internal Funding Programs
- Internal Award Funding Committed for 2024-2025:
    - GTP Program
      - 30 faculty members received funding
      - 61 students supported
    - FSI
      - 31 proposals received
      - 12 proposals funded
    - FRD
      - 18 proposals received
      - 6 proposals funded
    - GSRA
      - 35 proposals received
      - 24 proposals funded
      - 14 Ph.D. students and 10 Masters students
    - USRA
      - 44 proposals received
      - All 44 proposals were funded
  - Internal Award Funding for 2025-2026
    - The timeline for internal awards will remain the same for FY25. The only exception is that the FSI, FRD, and GSRA awards will run May 15-15, instead of June 1-May 30.
    - FRD
      - Program guidelines will be modified with URC input
      - New criteria must be developed for final report submissions
      - URC members suggested having the Office of Research reach out to previous awardees to ask them to provide a brief outcome of previous awards
    - USRA
      - The USRA Program needs substantial revisions
      - The Office of Research wants to look for external sponsors to run the program in a more efficient way without budgetary constraints
      - Without additional support, the program will remain limited with the maximum request amount being \$5,000
      - \$5,000 was a lot 15 years ago when the program was established, but it is not as attractive now for student salaries
      - The guidelines need to be updated to make the salaries more uniformed and put tougher restrictions on the additional support requested for supplies
      - URC members will need to assist the Office of Research by looking for ways to leverage the program
      - URC members are welcome to send Roman suggestions for revamping the program

- c. Grant Research Incentive Program (GRIP)
    - Grant Research Incentive Program (GRIP) is a new incentive program that will be optional for any grant-funded faculty (9 month and 12 month) - whereby the faculty member can receive a research offset bonus on top of their 9-month or 12-month salary.
    - Every tenured or tenure-track faculty may select to buy out research credit hours assigned as a workload using externally funded grants.
    - This is a way for the Office of Research to reward the most productive faculty
    - This program is used by many other state universities with great success
    - URC members are welcome to send any feedback or suggestions to Roman
  - d. PI Account Policy
    - The Office of Research is seeking feedback from URC members for the proposed PI account guidelines
    - The proposed guidelines include the following items:
      - Income to PI account will only be through IDC redistribution
      - Upper cap for the account is \$150K
      - Allowable expenses are research related following CSU policies and procedures, but colleges might have some additional restrictions
      - Summer salary is allowable. Required form must be submitted to the Office of Research and approved upfront.
5. Open Discussion
- Strategic Plan for Research
    - Roman and Ben have been asked to lead the effort
    - A rough draft of the plan will be presented during the November URC meeting for review and discussion
    - URC members are encouraged to contribute to the creation of the strategic plan
  - Fenn Hall Lab Renovations
    - Plans are in process for a Biomedical Discovery Complex
    - Design plans will be submitted soon, and an announcement is forthcoming
    - This will add much needed wet lab space in Fenn Hall
6. Agenda for the Next Meeting
- a. The next meeting has been scheduled for November 5
  - b. URC members are always welcome to send Roman feedback or suggestions

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.