

University Research Council

October 19, 2021

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Approved

Present: Elaine Berry, Megen Culpepper, Karen Fletcher, Soo Goh, Adam Hege, Christine Hendren, Marie Hoepfl, Christopher Holden, Charna Howson, Ece Karatan, Gary McCullough, Patricia Ortiz, Deb Paxton, Abhi Ramalingam, Jenny Tonsing, Heather Waldroup, John Wiswell

Excused: Becki Battista, Mina Min, Alecia Jackson, Rebecca Witter, Twila Wingrove

Staff: Kate Hoffman

Absent: Andrew Caldwell

Guest: Gabe Casale

- Ece Karatan calls the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.
- Motion (Ramalingam, Hendren) to approve the minutes from the [April 20, 2021 meeting](#) as amended. Correction of Soo Goh's name. VOTE: 13 – Approved, 0 Opposed, 3 – Abstained. Motion passes.
- Motion (Culpepper, Wiswell) to approve the minutes from the [September 21, 2021 meeting](#). VOTE: 15 – Approved, 0 Opposed, 1 – Abstained. Motion passes.

OLD BUSINESS

[UPPC Strategic Direction 2](#) Continued Discussions (Advancing Knowledge through Creativity, Research, and Innovation) - Ece Karatan and Gabe Casale

Strategic Direction Title:

Advancing Knowledge and Promoting Discovery Through Creativity, Research, and Innovation

Short title option:

Creativity, Research, and Innovation

Goals/Initiatives:

1. Support faculty efforts to pioneer innovative research and creative activity by balancing workloads and funding new and diverse hires.
2. Expand access and build the physical, digital, and financial support infrastructure to advance the pursuit and dissemination of faculty and student research, innovation, and creative endeavors.
3. Foster innovation and entrepreneurship, strengthen government, business and community partnerships to benefit society through transforming university discoveries into solutions.
4. Provide sustainable support and opportunities for all students to engage in faculty led research and creative activities.
5. Strengthen graduate programs to elevate the research and creative enterprise on campus. Increase stipend support to recruit and retain a high achieving and diverse graduate student body.
6. Incentivize research and creative endeavors focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion to support our commitment to achieving and sustaining inclusive excellence.
7. Prioritize investment of resources in existing and aspirational areas of excellence in research and creative activities

A strategic plan is guidance for maintaining a balance between the status quo and changing the way the University works. Members and Gabe Casale are divided into four breakout rooms. Each group discusses and completes the tasks within the Google Doc provided. This feedback helps with metrics. In Task II, Foundational means that the goals/ initiatives are already being done, but there is more to do. Transformational is for new goals/ initiatives and is above what is being done. In Task III, each group decides the order preference of the goals/ initiatives. These are the Google Docs: [Breakout Group I](#), [Breakout Group II](#), [Breakout Group III](#), and [Breakout Group IV](#). Each group briefly summarizes their group's Google Doc.

Ece asks the membership what is glaringly missing or not captured at all. Megen Culpepper suggests expanding upon workload balance and how to make it equitable for those who are doing research and those who are not. What context is the work balance load? Create an equitable workload distribution.

A part of the next meeting will be used for continuing this discussion. Metrics will be identified and be used evaluating the plan moving forward. In the past, only the UPPC body members have contributed. The URC offers different perspectives.

Announcements

North Carolina Alliance for Collaborative Endeavors (NC ACE) launched late last year in an effort to provide a forum for the small to medium schools in the University of North Carolina system to get to know fellow researchers. The program strives to offer a webinar every month where researchers from various UNC schools present on a common topic. Afterwards, all attendees will be invited to access a Slack channel that is updated with funding opportunities on that topic.

If you are interested in attending the October forum on mental health and health disparities on Tuesday, October 26th from 12noon - 1pm, please **register here:**

https://rtiorg.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_I6SOrR22QdekW0M8QkIRWg

Researcher Presentations

Abigail Reiter, PhD, Department of Sociology & Criminal Justice, UNC Pembroke

Sarah Donovan, Department of Social Work, Appalachian State University

Naglaa Rashwan, Center for New North Carolinians, UNC Greensboro

Adjournment at 5:29 pm.