

Research Council

Interviewed: Eugene Houseman and Anne Nolin, Co-Chairs, Research Council

Interviewer: Hui Zhang, Member, Committee on Committees

Date of Interview: May 31, 2016

1. Do the Standing Rules clearly reflect the function & composition of this committee?

The Standing Rules clearly reflect the functions and composition except for the following: in addition to the Chair, who has immediate prior experience on the Council, we also have a co-chair (who has prior experience, but not necessarily immediate prior experience). The revised version of standing rules is attached in below for reference.

The Research Council recommends policies for matters pertaining to ~~sponsored~~ institutional support of research at Oregon State University (OSU). It recommends priorities for distribution of various internal funding programs. It engages and consults with the Research Office on processes and decisions regarding limited submissions. The Research Council also reviews proposals for Centers, Institutes, and Research Programs (CIP), and is advisory to the Vice President for Research on matters related to CIP. The Council consists of fifteen Faculty members, preferably at least one from each college. The Administrator of the Research Office, or designee, shall be a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Council. The Chair and Co-Chair shall be a Faculty member with immediate prior experience on the Council, appointed annually by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The membership of the Research Council will adhere to the comprehensive conflict of interest policy of the Research Council.

2. Have the committee's actions/function, as reported in the annual reports and based on consultation with the current chair and committee, been consistent with their Standing Rules?

Yes. Examples include (1) recommendation of changes to the RERF and GRF proposal guidelines and review process, (2) submit campus-wide questionnaire to faculty on end-to-end grant management.

3. Do the annual reports provide a memory of the issues this committee addressed, their activities and any outcomes?

Yes, the annual reports are complete.

4. What has been the role/benefit of the student members?

Not applicable: there is no student member and there is no plan of adding any.

5. What connection is there to the University's strategic plan?

- In evaluating the Research Office's policies, we attempt to align with SP 3.0.
- Modify the instruction for RERF funding to require faculty add a statement showing how their proposed research align with the strategic plan.

6. To what extent does the committee add value to the university and/or faculty governance?

We serve as formal liaison between research faculty and the Research Office to benefit the overall research enterprise. The chair and co-chair also serve on search committees of high-level OSU administration (e.g. Vice-president for Research).

In reviewing and recommending incentive fund proposals, the Research Council endeavors to maximize the leverage of Research Office funds and to promote the overall OSU research enterprise, including multi-college research. The Research Council actively strives to ensure an equitable distribution of incentive funds, in a way that enhances the research opportunities for every college.

7. If the chair believes the committee does not add value, please explain and address the question as to whether the committee should continue to exist.

Not applicable. The Research Council adds a great deal of value, as described above in #6.

8. Does this committee's work enhance OSU's commitment to diversity? If so, how?

We note that currently, there is no language in the Standing Rules or in the incentive funding Request for Proposals that addresses our desire to more broadly enhance equity, inclusion, and diversity at OSU. However, as described above in #6, the Research Council actively strives to ensure an equitable distribution of incentive funds, in a way that enhances the research opportunities for every college.