

REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

FROM: Research Policy Committee (David Cuillier, chair)

DATE: April 3, 2023

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The RPC met with Dr. Betsy Cantwell, senior vice president for research and innovation, on Feb. 27, 2023, to discuss changes to the university's conflict of interest policies, as well as the effect of the new budgeting system on research.

Then, the RPC met with Provost Liesl Folks on March 27, 2023, to talk through the F&A PI distribution [recommendations](#). The provost and committee agreed that PI's should have flexibility to spend their funds how they wish (within UA spending policies). The provost said annual distributions would be better than quarterly (easier on college budget officers), and that departing PI's should not be able to dictate where their funds go -- the RPC did not push back on those issues. The provost said minimum distributions should be set at \$250, and the RPC disagreed, saying \$50 is reasonable, as recommended. The provost said she would loop back to Garth Perry to ask if that would work. The provost said she will let colleges determine how to manage large accumulations (not a big issue -- most PI's do not amass a large F&A account). The provost said she does not agree with the recommendation to increase the PI distribution from 2% to 5%. This is where the RPC and provost differ. Perhaps the Faculty Senate would consider taking this up next year to urge increasing the distribution in the future (out of the administration's portion, not the colleges' distributions).

Some changes to the committee in the past month: Chair David Cuillier, School of Journalism, announced that he will be stepping off the committee May 21, at the end of his three-year term. He has accepted a job at the University of Florida, starting July 3. Dr. Lucy Ziurys will be appointed chair starting in fall 2023, and Dr. Keith Maggert, from Molecular & Cellular Biology, has been appointed to the committee to fill the open position.

GOALS:

It is our goal to continue work on the following issues these last few months and into next year:

1. The effects of the university's conflict of interest policies and practices on researchers.
2. Look at changes to research misconduct policy
3. Changes in the "Research Scholar" title.
4. Follow up previous survey research by the committee on how researchers on campus view the campus core research facilities.