

REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

FROM: Research Policy Committee (David Cuillier, chair)

DATE: April 24, 2023

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The RPC met with Provost Liesl Folks on March 27, 2023, to talk through the F&A PI distribution [recommendations](#). The RPC then met April 24 to discuss as a committee, and provide the following thoughts and suggestions to the Faculty Senate:

1. The provost agreed that PIs should be able to spend their funds in any way allowable by the university. We are in agreement.
2. The provost said she will let colleges determine how to manage large accumulations. The committee is OK with that.
3. The provost said annual distributions would be better than quarterly (easier on college budget officers). We recommend, instead, once each semester (Engineering does it quarterly).
4. The provost prefers the minimum distribution be set at \$250, and the RPC disagreed, saying \$50 is reasonable. We recommend it be set at \$100, letting colleges decide whether to let the balance accumulate over time, or to pool residuals and disburse departmentwide.
5. The provost said if someone leaves the university then that person does not have a say in where the funds go. This needs further discussion.
6. 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 significantly. We believe 5% (with that extra 3% out of the central administration's portion) will create greater incentive and direct benefit for researchers and their students, which is the point of this entire proposal. We recommend that the Faculty Senate engage directly with the provost on this matter.

Ultimately, we unanimously urge the Faculty Senate to continue discussions with the provost and make recommendations on these matters, including exploring how the central administration spends its share of F&A, and transparency in F&A distributions. The RPC also will follow up on the issue this fall.

GOALS:

It is the committee's goal to continue work on the following issues this fall:

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.