



Research Policy Committee

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA®  
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**Research Policy Committee**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23**

**Committee Members:**

Dr. David Cuillier, **CHAIR**, SBS (6/20-5/23)  
Ms. Addison Coen, GPSC (6/22-5/23)  
Dr. Wolfgang Fink, ENGR (6/20-5/23)  
Dr. Paul Gordon, COM-T (6/19-5/23)  
Dr. Kristin Morrill, Postdoc (6/22-5/23)  
Dr. Stanley Pau, OSC (6/11-5/23)  
Dr. Marlys Witte, COM-T (6/13-5/23)  
Ms. Megan Wong, ASUA (6/22-5/23)  
Dr. Lucy Ziurys, COS (12/22-5/23)

The Research Policy Committee completed its work this year on several issues of importance to UA researchers:

**1. Facilities & Administration distributions to principal investigators**

Last year, the RPC [studied allocation of F&A](#), and in April 2022, [recommended](#) the Faculty Senate meet Fall 2022 to recommend a mandated campus-wide direct distribution to PIs, to incentivize research. In July 2022, AIB was launched with the provision that PIs should receive 2% from their grants' IDC. The Provost emailed the RPC on Aug. 10 to ask for input on some of the details (see Aug. 24, 2022, [memo](#) with background information).

In Fall 2022, the RPC collected feedback from Faculty Senators and college budget officers using an anonymous online form. A summary, with results and responses to open-ended questions, is provided [here](#). The committee then solicited data and insights from the 20 college budget officers on how they distributed funds before AIB, and how they plan to do so in the future. These data are summarized in this [spreadsheet](#).

The RPC provided its final [recommendations](#) to the Faculty Senate at its Dec. 5 meeting regarding direct distributions to researchers from funds generated from their facilities and administration portion of their grants. The Faculty Senate voted in strong

support of the recommendations (no senator voting “no”). The RPC then met with Provost Liesl Folks on March 27, 2023, to discuss the recommendations, reaching agreement on some, but not on others (see [RPC update report](#) to Faculty Senate, April 3, 2023). The RPC recommended to the Faculty Senate that it continue to urge a higher distribution to PIs, from 2% to 5%.

## **2. Conflict of interest policy changes affecting researchers**

The RPC looked into how changes to the conflict of interest policies affect researchers. The committee met Jan. 30, 2023, with Taren Ellis Langford, senior director of Research, Innovation & Impact’s Office for Responsible Outside Interests, and Sangita Judge, vice president of operations for Research, Innovation & Impact, to gather information about the new policies. The committee then met Feb. 27, 2023, with Dr. Betsy Cantwell, senior vice president for research and innovation. The committee will continue to monitor the issue, as well as the impact of the new AIB budgeting model on research.

## **3. Other issues**

Several other issues to be examined in the upcoming year include changes in the “Research Scholar” title, and following up on researchers’ perceptions toward the campus core research facilities.

## **4. Committee changes for the upcoming year**

Chair David Cuillier accepted a job at the University of Florida, departing the UA on May 21, 2023. Dr. Lucy Ziurys agreed to serve as chair of the RPC, if appointed.

Here is a summary of the RPC’s meetings for the year:

### **August 29, 2022**

The first meeting of the FY2022-23, the group discussed setting an agenda for the year with a goal to mainly discuss indirect cost.

### **September 26, 2022**

The committee started hammering out its recommendations on F&A distributions to PIs.

### **October 31, 2022**

The committee continued its work on the F&A PI distribution, inviting college budget officers to discuss (none showed up to the meeting). The committee finalized six recommendations to provide to the Faculty Senate.

### **November 28, 2022**

The committee discussed ongoing issues, including the F&A PI distribution (awaiting presentation at Faculty Senate’s Dec. 5 meeting), conflict of interest policies, and researcher views of campus core research facilities.

### **January 30, 2023**

The committee met with Taren Ellis Langford, senior director of Research, Innovation & Impact’s Office for Responsible Outside Interests, and Sangita Judge, vice president of operations for Research, Innovation & Impact, to gather information about the new policies regarding conflicts of interest.

**February 27, 2023**

The committee met with Dr. Betsy Cantwell, senior vice president for research and innovation to discuss the effect of the new AIB budgeting model on research, as well as the conflict of interest policies affecting researchers.

**March 27, 2023**

The RPC met with Provost Liesl Folks to work through the F&A PI distribution recommendations, reaching agreement on some but not others. The committee will finish its discussions of this topic and others at its final meeting of the year, April 24, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. David Cuillier  
Chair, RPC