

USF Research Council

Meeting Minutes
August 28, 2023

Present: Ponrathi Athilingam, Richard Heller (Chair), Kelli Barr, Feng Cheng, Elizabeth Hadley, Ganesh Halade, James Leahy, Mark Luther, Kristian Lynch, Taryn Sabia, Kristina Schmidt, Emily Shaffer-Hudkins, Kersuze Simeon-Jones, David Simmons (Vice-Chair), Jenny Qin

Absent: Marilyn Stern

Also Attending: John Adams, Eddie Aikins, Tina Lucas, Mark McLaughlin, Allison Madden, Sylvia Thomas

Call to Order

Dr. Richard Heller (Chair), called the meeting of the USF Research Council to order at 12:30 p.m. on August 28, 2023, in-person at the VP of Research Multi-Purpose Room and via Microsoft Teams.

New members introduced themselves and were welcomed.

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

The May 1, 2023, minutes were unanimously approved.

Proposal for the Provost on USF Infrastructure Investment

The USF Strategic Research Investment Plan consists of 3 categories. Faculty Equipment, Shared Facilities (SF), and the Research Core Facility (RCF). The proposal was approved by the Strategic Research Infrastructure Committee.

The Strategic Research Infrastructure Funds (SRIF) Panel would allocate strategic operating funds for shared instrumentation. This entails a large scale philanthropic, three-year duration of grant funds to support ongoing maintenance costs.

Send any edits to Dr. Heller by Friday, September 1, 2023.

The Provost's Strategic Investment Centers and Institutes proposal team will work with Dr. Thomas, David Simmons, and Richard Heller. They request an RFP template for Center and Institute types of proposals. One to three million dollars of seed funding is proposed, with separate funding from existing Internal Awards.

Discussion of Interdisciplinary Research Awards

Proposed two grant categories of *Interdisciplinary Research Awards* (IDRA):

1. Collaborative Programs with a budget of \$500,000 annually or 10% of the targeted external grant proposal amount, whichever is less, and;
2. Infrastructure Investment with a budget of \$2 million annually and \$250,000 per grant maximum for a direct purchasing or matching fund grant. A one-year progress report in addition to the final performance progress report six months after completion. Three rounds per year with deadlines the second Monday of September (adjusted later for 2023), January, and April. A mandatory final report is due 24 months after notice of award.

Send any edits to Dr. Heller by Tuesday, September 5, 2023. Final discussion will be held during the next meeting on September 11. Dr. Heller requested the instructions, guidelines, and application drafts to be created.

Discussion of Core Facilities Matching Grant

The Core Facilities Matching Grant (CFMG) was discussed, which would provide a one-to-one dollar match, up to \$5,000 per grant year for the entire grant period. This grant has an annual total budget of approximately \$400,000 or 80 grants funded per year.

Other Business

Dr. Thomas requested to add Research Computing to the September 25, 2023 agenda.

Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 11.