

Faculty Research Council Meeting Minutes
February 28 2025, 3:00 p.m. Memorial Union Meinecke Board Room and via Zoom

Participants: Dan Hsu, Jen Li, Mila Kryjevskaja, Julie Pasche, Ryan McGrath, Phil McClean, Ranjit Godavarthy, Annie Tangpong, Sheridan McNeil, Scott Payne, Colleen Fitzgerald

Faculty Research Council Agenda

1. Introductions (5 minutes)
2. Federal landscape (15 minutes)
3. [NDSU Transform](#) Strategic Priorities Work Team – [R1 Goal 3](#): Build and strengthen research partnerships that align with the priorities and capacities identified by regional Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs). (Sheridan) (10 minutes)
4. Updates – [Faculty Research Council recommendation](#): A Small Animal Vivarium Core Facility (Scott Payne) (15 minutes)
5. Other items

Federal Landscape:

3/3/25 9:00-10:00am Federal Fund Research Q&A in Memorial Union, Anishinaabe Theater -organized by Faculty Senate President Lisa Montplaisir. Q&A session is a great opportunity to ask the RCA and GCA representatives pre- and post-award questions. Will also address PTE-related questions or concerns. And will collect your ideas for building that “support structure for navigating changes, notifications, potential halts” resource.

VPR Fitzgerald attended the APLU COR EC Winter meeting Feb 18-19 2025 in Washington DC.

APLU joined the lawsuit regarding the 15% cap on IDC for NIH.

Federal government fully funded until 3/14/25. A full year continuing resolution CR would be a win.

Question: Any insights into federal awards getting cancelled?

Expect anything, keep calm and carry on. There are still a lot of opportunities, encourage resiliency as researchers and as a research enterprise.

Continue to encourage proposal submissions across campus!

e.g. Broader Impacts – can we find ways to leverage our assets?

Question: News on NIH possible reorganization?

We should be ready/prepared for this. Lay offs of program officers, junior scientists, and post docs.

Question: Should we proceed with recruitment of graduate students in our departments? President Cook’s email 2/28/25 to campus expressed the message to proceed as normal. VPR Fitzgerald encourages chairs/faculty to have discussions with their deans. Also encourages running scenarios to determine level of risk and also departmental priorities.

Question: NSF Broader Impacts: How should we treat DEI in proposals?

The best proposals that move forward are clearly explain how the research science makes sense for the project.

If there is interest in a Broader Impacts workshop please email VPR Fitzgerald.

There is a group of administrators and staff at NDSU tasked to review grants regarding the recent Executive Orders to see what/if there is an impact to each proposal. The group includes Chris Wilson, Matt Hammer, Val Kettner, Karin Hegstad, Ona Vig, and a few others. NDSU has received 3 cease and desist/stop work orders on active grants. Notices will be emailed directly to PIs and CC’d to SPA. If you receive a stop work order on a grant, email Karin Hegstad and Val Kettner immediately for assistance.

Build and strengthen research partnerships that align with the priorities and capacities identified by regional Tribal Colleges and Universities:

Best practices working with TCUs and tribal communities

Sheridan McNeil – Director of Tribal Partnerships with ND EPSCoR shared suggestions to create meaningful partnerships with ND TCUs, emphasizing mutual benefits.

Suggestion of informational sessions, e.g., tribal sovereignty or data sovereignty. recorded webinars, guest speakers from TCUs to help built relationships and knowledge base between NDSU's and TCUs faculty.

Encouraged NDSU faculty to visit TCUs and offered to set-up such visits.

We are creating a webpage with content on 'best practices' collaborating with TCUs.

Interest was expressed in having:

1. A webpage that includes points of contact and research interests for the faculty at the five TCUs in ND.
2. A resource detailing the opportunities that TCU students are looking for.

Encouraged building relationships with TCU faculty: have frequent and early communications to avoid situations where TCUs are seen as a 'checkbox' for diversity and equity.

NDTCS is the only state college system in the U.S. TCU Presidents meet monthly.

Looking for 2-3 FRC members to volunteer to work with Sheridan. Julie Pasche volunteered at the meeting. If you would like to join in this work group, please email Sheridan Sheridan.mcneil@ndsu.edu.

Small Animal Vivarium Core Facility:

Four of the five colleges at NDSU have needs in the biomedical research field which a small animal core facility would support biomedical research and make the university more competitive in the biomedical space.

Scott Payne - Executive Director Core Research Facilities, Director of Electron Microscopy Core and Kristy Shirley - Research Integrity, Security and Compliance Manager toured UND's and USD's Vivarium to gather information and guidance on items each facility would do differently if they could. Great information was gathered, Scott shared the report at the meeting. VPR Fitzgerald emailed the report direct to FRC members 2/28/25.

The facility would be:

* a single-level building 35,000-45,000 square feet, BSL2 concept, possibly a BSL3 suite. Cost about \$1,500/sq.ft.

*Operate as a university core facility, allowing expansion into research areas that the current departmental facilities on campus are not able to accommodate.

Need additional human capital to support the facility, including: Biosafety officer, attending veterinarian, lab manager, vet techs, student workers

Scott and Kristy are working on:

*Drafting position descriptions, creating possible org chart, gathering data on salaries for specific positions.

*Working with Facilities Management to hire a firm to draft concept drawings

All information will be compiled into a shovel-ready proposal as a possible future legislative ask. This route will help with future master planning vs just trying to fill gaps campus researchers have been experiencing for years.

Future facility could also attract local businesses and entities who are interested in conducting research with NDSU in our region.

NDSU Development Foundation is gearing up for the next campaign. Could be socialized.

Suggestions:

*Create a list of NDSU faculty who would use the future vivarium

*Visit with Greg Lardy to socialize with SBARE

*Is it possible to have state pay for utilities of future vivarium?

Other items:

ND Senate passed SB2003 included \$8M total to NDUS for EDRF. Now the bill will be under consideration by the ND House. The EDRF website details the projects, here is the link: <https://www.ndsu.edu/research/edrf/>

VPR Fitzgerald appreciates everyone's service and effort. Keep up the excellent work!

Next steps:

1. Julie Pasche volunteered to work with Sheridan McNeil on constructing and championing an event or professional development opportunity related to tribal college partnerships.
2. Faculty members to email Sheridan Sheridan.mcneil@ndsu.edu with topics they would like to learn about regarding tribal colleges and tribal communities.
3. Scott Payne and Kristy Shirley will continue to gather information and draft a proposal for a future ask regarding the vivarium facility.
4. Scott Payne to work on conceptual drawings for the vivarium facility with facilities management.
5. Kristy Shirley to develop job descriptions, salary ranges, and an organizational chart for the vivarium facility.
6. Faculty to reach out to Scott scott.payne@ndsu.edu with any questions, comments, or ideas regarding the vivarium facility project.
7. Faculty to consider subscribing to the NIH or NSF opportunities listservs set-up by the research office. Use this link to add or delete yourself https://www.ndsu.edu/research/for_researchers/rca_listservs/
8. Interested faculty to register for the R3 event 'Reinventing Yourself as a Researcher' on 4/2/25 11:30am-1:00pm Memorial Union (room TBD) for tenured faculty looking to reinvent or pivot their research.

Next Meeting: March 25 2025 2:00 p.m. Memorial Union -Meinecke Board Room and via Zoom. Zoom link included in the Outlook calendar invite.