

Faculty Research Council Meeting Minutes
March 25 2025, 2:00 p.m. Memorial Union Meinecke Board Room and via Zoom

Participants: Dan Hsu, Mila Kryjevskaja, Julie Pasche, Jeff Johnson, Sathish Venkatachalem, Ryan McGrath, Phil McClean, Ranjit Godavarthy, Annie Tangpong, Heidi Grunwald, Colleen Fitzgerald

Faculty Research Council Agenda

- 1. Updates and Questions on Federal Side (15 minutes maximum)**
- 2. Discussion: Report from FRC for AY2024-2025**

Motion to approve minutes from AY 24-25 FRC meetings and post to the website by Johnson/McGrath seconds.
Approved unanimously.

Updates and Questions on Federal Side:

- USDA NIFA portal has not reopened for submissions
- NSF is encouraging proposal submissions
- NIH has started council meetings again; has reduced solicitations
- HHS expect reorganization and staff cuts in line with current administration's priorities
- 3/15/25 Continuing Resolution approved to fund the U.S. federal government through fiscal year 2025.
NIH and DOD Biomedical both were reduced. Verbiage in CR gave decision making to executive branch.
- Watching to see if Congress will submit a FY26 budget or adopt the President's budget
- COBRE phase 1 PAR will be released in the coming months.
- UND's INBRE has not heard back on their request for an NCE.
- Chronic diseases are the current area of broad research that have funding opportunities (at the federal level) for researchers. Encourage researchers to submit proposals as we will be competing with a reduced pool of proposals.
Strategy -diversify the funding portfolio and create a long-term plan.
- Ag Appropriations bill – upcoming meeting 3/28/25 with Colleen Fitzgerald, Sheri Anderson, Greg Lardy, Frank Casey and Lewis-Burke colleagues regarding USDA and changes at the federal level
- Programmatic requests for FY26: RCA has worked directly with the college deans to strategize looking for alignment between federal, state, and college priorities.

NDSU event: Reignite, Reimagine, Reinvent (R3): New Directions and Perspectives for Generating Shovel-Ready Ideas to Seek Funding for Your Research and Creative Activity April 2, 2025, 12:00pm – 1:00pm | Meadowlark, Memorial Union

Who: Tenured faculty

Why: Thinking of a scholarly pivot? A re-ignition? How to reframe your work in light of federal uncertainty? Thinking about a post-tenure review timeline?

What: A 1-hour session including:

- Featured speakers
- Hands-on activity with peers/mentors to assist in how to get started
- Information about an upcoming, 6-week summer session intended to support faculty with a mentored, cohort experience to create proposals for internal or external funding
- Access to asynchronous grant writing support resources

Discussion: Report from FRC for AY2024-2025

Upcoming report would be included on the President's website. Report articulates the research priorities

-NDSU researchers have benefitted from EDRF funding and NASA EPSCoR funding.

-We are making progress on planning for a new vivarium.

Starting with the Recommendations report from AY22-23 we can summarize research activities and achievements plus include additional goals and priorities.

By May 2025 we will know if we are receiving additional EDRF funding

Suggestions to include in vision report:

- highlight successes
- address ongoing priorities
- identify future themes

Also discussed:

- Verbalize that we support efforts on campus for effective policy regarding workload equality and flexibility for faculty
 - Strategic planning in colleges to hire research faculty
 - Faculty champions within colleges who encourage peers in multitude of areas e.g. research, understanding and growing R1 culture, attending campus events, Bison Spark Talks, etc.
 - Alignment with NDSU Horizon 2035
 - Barriers/challenges – We lack vibrant clinical infrastructure; limited access to sample populations e.g. Parkinson's disease participants
 - How do we ease the barriers? Cultivate more relationships with clinical departments such as with the VA, Sanford Health, Essentia Health, etc.
 - Host a Summit on campus with Sanford Health?
 - This ties to the new degree program in CRA
 - Strategic Research prioritization, work cross-disciplinary e.g. biomedical
 - Business model for future centers?
 - Thoughts on visioning for the next biennium to inform the legislative priorities.
 - Be sure to include workforce in ND. Partnerships in industry.
 - Career exploration, Bison to the Bakken
 - All colleges need to be like Ag in timeline of starting to plan immediately for the next biennium including socializing the vision framework with private and industry partnerships
 - Be sure to include all areas/not siloed. Be stronger in non-STEM. e.g. Bison Arts and Humanities Fund
 - Include activities in infrastructure and facilities on campus.
- Timeline – complete AY24-25 report by mid-May 2025.

Next steps:

1. Heidi to compile information on activities and initiatives that address the recommendations from the previous FRC recommendations report. Create Teams group so documents are in a central location and accessible to members as we work toward final version of new report.

Next Meeting: April 23 2025 3:00 p.m. Memorial Union-Meinecke Board Room and via Zoom. Zoom link included in the Outlook calendar invite. (We are working to reschedule.)