

Faculty Research Council Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2024 9:00am-10:30am
Memorial Union, Peace Garden Room and Zoom

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

Faculty Research Council Agenda
October 21, 2024

1. Introductions and Charge
2. Strategic Priorities Work Team/Research: Brainstorming campus goals
3. Internal Funding Programs and Review Process
4. NSF Competitiveness
5. Economic Diversification Research Fund
6. BisonSpark Talks
7. Other Items

1. Introductions and Charge Faculty Research Council and Membership

We have two faculty members from each of the five colleges on the FRC, each serving two-year terms. We have six members whose terms will end May 2025 (who were on the council last year) and four new members who will serve through May 2026.

College of Business: Dan Hsu (May 2025) and Ranjit Godavarthy (May 2026)

College of Ag: Julie Pasche (May 2025) and Phil McClean (May 2025)

College of Arts and Sciences: Mila Kryjevskaja (May 2025) and Jeffrey Johnson (May 2026)

College of Engineering: Juan (Jen) Li (May 2025) and Annie Tangpong (May 2026)

College of Health and Human Sciences: Sathish Venkatachalem (May 2025) and Ryan McGrath (May 2026)

Faculty Research Council's charge and key priorities

1. Recommend priorities for NDSU research
2. identify solutions to structural barriers to research
3. review internal funding opportunities
4. support research and creative activity at NDSU.
5. FRC collaborates with the Research and Consulting Committee (Faculty Senate)

2. Strategic Priorities Work Team/Research: Brainstorming campus goals

NDSU's research priority: Maintaining R1 status

There has been a shift in criteria for R1 status to two metrics: research expenditures and PhD production.

President Cook is interested in moving forward on action items from various councils, with a focus on first-year and second-year enrollment, K-12 engagement, and research. He has discussed possibility of forming work teams to address these strategic priorities, with potential members from FRC and other stakeholders.

VP Fitzgerald brought some organized ideas to the group for discussion, including the importance of focusing on Federal funding opportunities, particularly those from the NIH, NSF, and DoD, as they offer full indirect cost rates and being mindful that UND will secure R1 status in spring 2025, so finding more distinctiveness than maintaining R1 status will be needed. How to articulate the value proposition of NDSU as a land grant university, highlighting its unique position in the nation?

Some possible ways to organize in terms of strategic partnerships, comparison with other R1s and strength areas:

- Interdisciplinary research initiatives
 - Bench strength in some key areas, like materials
- Modernizing center models

- Drawing insight from other “credentialling” or recognition efforts (AAU, Carnegie Community Engagement criteria, etc).
- Tribal College partnerships
- Need for infrastructure investments

VPR Fitzgerald will continue to use discussion and input to draft a version of strategic priorities document based on meeting feedback with FRC and others, and will confirm timeline for action team deliverables from President Cook.

3. Internal Funding Programs and Review Process

Sheri Anderson and Heidi Grunwald shared updates on current EDRF and other internal funding initiatives. As proposals come in, they will reach out to FRC members to support (where relevant expertise exists) the review process for internal funding opportunities.

4. NSF Competitiveness

CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 and the EPSCoR state targets for funding, combined with the decline in NSF proposals from EPSCoR states creates an opportunity. Need to increase the competitiveness of proposals submitted to the National Science Foundation (NSF). Brainstormed strategies that could be appropriate for NDSU, including possible incentive of professional development funding for competitive NSF submissions, organizing ‘lunch and learns’ to improve proposal quality, and an open house on NSF competitiveness.

5. Economic Diversification Research Fund

VPR Fitzgerald provided updates on the year two efforts to allocate the EDRF funding. Infrastructure RFP was out to campus. Considering an open house on EDRF awards to ensure understanding of legislative intent, to showcase projects, and to increase transparency of what was funded, going into the next legislative session.

6. BisonSpark Talks are short stories about the amazing research happening in various disciplines on campus. These five minute stories about research are meant to spark interest, ideas, and collaborations across our research community.

The 1st Annual BisonSpark Talks were held Oct 16, 23, & 30 2023 were well received. We are making some adjustments from feedback to make the next event every better. The committee has started working on the selection process, deadline to apply is January 24 2025. The details to apply can be found here:

https://www.ndsu.edu/research/rca_events/bisonspark_talks/.

March 6 2025 is the date of the next BisonSpark Talks.

7. Other Items

FRC members please engage with your colleagues to promote the action team’s activities and reach out to your colleges about their role on the council.

Jeffrey Johnson to collect questions for Provost (from council members) for the upcoming Budget Committee meeting.

Next Meeting: November 19 2024 3:00 p.m. Memorial Union Peace Garden Room and via Zoom