

Faculty Senate Committee Annual Report (2023-2024)

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer Livingston, Chair

Faculty Senate Committee on:

Charge: This committee shall review, report and recommend to the senate matters concerning university policies, procedures and actions regarding research and creative activity; university facilities for research and creative activity; funding for research and creative activity; and responsibilities and liabilities of researchers

Roster: Jennifer Livingston (Chair), Margaret Deangelis, Diane Dempsey, Haimonti Dutta, Stephanie Fredrick, Jonathon Grunert, Brian Quigley, Roh-Yu Shen, Panayotis (Peter) Thanos, and Alexis Thompson.

Report Date: April 23, 2024

Meeting History: First Friday mornings of the month.

9/29/23, 11/3/23, 12/1/23, 12/20/23, 3/1/24, 4/5/24. Meetings also scheduled for 4/26/24 and 5/10/24.

Major Objectives:

Our primary objectives were to:

1. Continue to build the recently re-established Research and Creative Activities Committee, by recruiting new members.
2. Identify issues associated with obtaining IACUC approvals for research protocols involving animals.
3. Work with UB administrators overseeing Click, IRB, and IACUC to advise them of ongoing issues with obtaining IACUC approval and to advocate for changes that will expedite and simplify the process.
4. To identify existing gaps in University resources needed to conduct research at UB. We will begin by studying data from the 2022 COACHE survey and the 2023 Faculty Senate Faculty Satisfaction survey.

Emerging Objectives:

1. Advocate for representation of UB researchers in plans for making administrative changes (e.g., restructuring of SPS) that will impact scientists' abilities to obtain funding and conduct research.

2. Identifying University resources that can assist with increasing administrative burdens associated with conducting research (e.g., NIH’s new data archiving policies). For example, the Research and Information Systems out of the VPR’s office has been assisting Dr. Livingston meet the new NIH data archiving requirements. RIS will be invited to meet with RCAC so that we can learn more about what services they provide and can help disseminate this information to UB researchers.
3. Recruiting members from the arts.

Potential Work Products or Milestones for Completion of Objectives:

1. The committee recruited five new members from different schools/departments. The following schools/units are represented on the committee: Pharmacology & Toxicology (Shen, Thanos), School of Management (Dutta), Department of Psychology (Thompson), UB Libraries (Grunert), Counseling School and Educational Psychology (Fredrick), Department of Ophthalmology (Deangelis), Family Medicine (Quigley), School of Nursing (Livingston, Dempsey).
2. Drs. Shen and Thompson prepared a power point presentation and along with Dr. Thanos, informed the committee about the challenges associated with obtaining IACUC approval through click.
3. The committee drafted memos to the VPR and IRB regarding ongoing issues with IACUC and Click.
4. On 4/5/24, the committee met with Rich Karalus, Albert Titus, Leah Redding, and Tom Wendt to discuss the IACUC/Click issues and possible solutions.

Timeline for Completion of Objectives:

1. Fall of 2024 – the committee will resume working with COACHE and Faculty Satisfaction Surveys to identify barriers and challenges.
2. Fall 2024 - the RIS team will be invited to talk about data services available to UB researchers.
3. Fall of 2024 – follow-up on progress towards improving IACUC approval procedures.

Specific actions requiring FSEC approval: None at this time.

FS Committee General Comments: The committee will continue to seek new members and to identify issues affecting the pursuit of research and creative activities at UB.

FSEC Comments



University at Buffalo
Faculty Senate
University Shared Governance