

2021-2022 Year-End Committee Report

Committee:	Research Affairs Committee
Charge:	Addresses issues that impact research-related activities conducted by the faculty
Chair:	Fred W. Turek, PhD
# of Meetings:	5

Completed Business and/or Accomplishments

An important part of the RAC activities is meeting on a quarterly basis with Vice President of Research Milan Mrksich and Associate Vice President for Research (FSM) Rex Chisholm. At these meetings, there is an exchange of ideas, issues, and information that is critical for the Administration to convey to RAC and the Senate, and for RAC members to convey to Central Administration. These conversations are important as we work “together” to advance the research enterprise at NU. One exciting change is that OR is the foundation of a new faculty advising committee called the Office for Research Advisory Council (ORAC), which will provide high-level advice to the VP Office for Research on new directions for the research enterprise of the URICs at NU. Among the major activities of the RAC were:

- RAC and OR administration worked together to streamline the activities of the administrative units in the Office for Sponsored Research to facilitate the submission and administration of external research grants internally.
- A major reason for having quarterly meetings with VP Mrksich and AVP Chisholm is to look for ways to reduce the barriers and incentivize cross-campus collaboration.
- The Chair of RAC asked that an internal audit of OR be carried out to improve the flow of paperwork and to improve the transparency/information to faculty about new internal regulations and changes in old ones. This seems to have happened.
- RAC was one of the sub-committees that brought a resolution to the Senate that the University needs to put a high priority on staff compensation and retention. Resolution was passed.
- RAC requested that the procedures for allowing approval to work on animals (IACUC) and humans (IRB) be examined by OR staff to minimize unnecessary delays in obtaining approval to start new research projects. OR was very receptive to this idea and moved forward with this request.

Unfinished/Continuing Business

- None.

New Business for Next Year

- Work together with the Central Administration to foster the growth of externally funded research at NU.
- Continue to foster inter-school and inter-campus research collaboration.