

University Senate Research Committee Meeting

(online)

26 March, 2021

1:00 PM

In Attendance: G. Fort, D. Harrell, M. Hravnak, M. Holland, M. McCall, P. Morel, R. Rutenbar, D. Salcido, S. Sant, M. Scott, A. Sethi, V. So, W. Yates,

The minutes from the 26 February 2021 meeting stand were approved as submitted.

Picture a Scientist showing:

The date for the panel discussion has been set for April 8th at 2 PM. The panel for the webinar has been finalized and will consist of Sharon Shattuck (Film Director/producer), Nicole Kaminski (4th year GSR, President BGSA). Paula Davis (Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity) and Christine Schmidt (Professor and Chair, Department of Bioengineering, University of Florida). The format will be a webinar and the panel will start with introductions of the panelists followed by some specific questions for them. The session will follow with questions from the attendees. The committee was asked to think of some questions they would like to raise with the panelists. Some suggestions included asking the filmmaker about sections that ended up on the cutting floor.

To date 53 people have registered and the committee is urged to continue to advertise the showing and panel discussion. We will send out a request for questions from registrants.

Action Item: Penny and Shilpa will finalize the questions to be asked at the start of the webinar.

Action item: For the committee: please advertise, register for the event and submit questions to Penny and Shilpa

Research Report from Rob Rutenbar

Covid 19 update

R. Rutenbar gave an update on the situation and it appears to be stable at the present time. The university is still in the guarded position, although cases are going up among students. UPDATE: since then the university has moved to Elevated Posture due to a rise in infections and emergence of the UK variant.

COI Rollout for 2021

The forms for 2021 have been launched and, so far, there has been a very good response. B. Yates reported that there have been no significant problems reported.

Data management Discussion

R Rutenbar reported that a questionnaire about Box usage will be going out in order to better plan for the transition to other providers.

R Rutenbar talked about a new committee that has been set up to review the Conflict of Commitment and outside activities policy. This policy is old, very short and not suitable for present day needs. The committee has started its work and is composed of a number of experienced individuals from across the campus. Details can be found [here](#).

BioRender – Pitt license

M. Scott made the suggestion that Pitt could look into acquiring a site license for the BioRender software. This is very useful to many researchers who need to draw graphical abstracts or make illustrations for manuscripts and grants etc. It is widely used and many investigators buy their own licenses etc. R. Rutenbar said he would look into this.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm. The next Research Committee meeting will be on 30th April 2021 at 1:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by P. Morel and S. Sant