

**University Research Council
Meeting of September 29, 2025**

Attendees: Nigamanth Sridhar, Chair
Roman Kondratov (Ex-Officio Member)
Benjamin Ward (Ex-Officio Member)

Choi, David	Ning, Liqun	Sun Xue-Long
Collins, Cyleste	Resnick, Andy	Uz, Metin
DeBoth Foust, Kelle	Rubin, Eran	Voight, Adam
Kumar, Sathish	Souther, Mark	Wajda, Doug
Lovell, Rachel		

Absent/Excused: Espy, Debbie

Guest: Sean Reis, Executive Director, Capital Planning, Access and Campus Experience

Dr. Kondratov called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda for the September 29, 2025 Meeting
Approved and seconded as written
2. Introduction of URC Members
 - There are no new members on the URC for the 2025-2026 year
3. Office of Research Updates
 - a. Budget
 - There will be no changes to the budget for the internal award programs for FY26
 - Currently 55 students are being supported by the Graduate Tuition Program (GTP), and the budget has already been maxed out for the year
 - The Graduate Faculty Research Support Program (GFRSP) remains on pause while contract negotiations are ongoing
 - b. URC Membership Eligibility
 - The Office of Research was asked whether or not department chairs could serve on the URC
 - The Greenbook definition does include chairs
 - Since chairs can also serve on senate committees, chairs can serve on the URC
 - c. Graduate Student Award Transfers
 - The Office of Research was recently contacted by the faculty mentor of a GSRA awardee inquiring whether the award can be transferred to another student if the awardee leaves the university

- Since this is not a standard procedure, URC members were asked to vote on whether or not they supported transferring GSRA awards another student if the awarded student leaves the university or quits their masters/doctoral program
 - Since student credentials are essential in awarded projects, URC members voted by a majority to cancel the award and return the funds to the Office of Research in such cases going forward
4. Fenn Hall 4th Floor Project
- Sean Reis provided URC members with an overview and update on the project
 - There is a need for a state of the art facility with wetlabs and shared resources
 - This project is highly linked to an increase in external funding
 - The fourth floor in Fenn Hall is in the best shape for this project
 - \$31.5 million in state capital funding is being used for this project
 - The goal is to have a fall 2028 opening, with the construction beginning in May of 2026
 - There are already several committees working with the architect on this project, including an external advisory group with members from the Cleveland Clinic
 - Questions should be directed to Sean Reis or Mauve Murphy
5. PI Account Policy
- Due to a lack of PI eligibility guidelines, there have been issues in recent years as to who is eligible to serve as a PI
 - The Office of Research has created guidelines to add structure and remove the uncertainty
 - Proper management of grant funds is essential to uphold the fiduciary responsibilities of the University. To ensure proper oversight, an individual with Regular Appointment at the university must be responsible for each grant account, IRB protocol or IACUC protocol.
 - Proposed guidelines include the following criteria:
 - Faculty members with regular faculty status and regular appointment status can serve as a PI, Co-PI, and Co-I
 - Emeritus and Retired faculty cannot serve as PI. They can only serve as a Co-PI or Co-I with the dean's office approval.
 - Postdoctoral fellows, Research Associate, graduate students, and undergraduate students may serve as PI on external grants—if permitted by the sponsor—only if an individual with Regular Faculty status or Regular Appointment status agrees to serve as the Co-PI. Postdoctoral fellows, Research Associate, graduate students, and undergraduate students cannot serve as PIs on IACUC or IRB protocols.
 - Adjunct faculty and Visiting Professors may not serve as PI. They can only serve as a Co-PI or Co-I with the dean's office approval.
 - URC members should send Roman any additional comments or feedback
 - URC members will be sent the revised guidelines to vote electronically prior to the October URC meeting
6. Scoring Criteria for Internal Awards
- The scoring criteria for the internal awards needs to be modified to better evaluate the merit of proposals

- URC member Andy Resnick drafted up a modified set of criteria for evaluating FRD, FSI, and GSRA proposals, which was shared with URC members during the meeting
- The scoring criteria needs to be finalized by the end of the fall semester
- This agenda items will be continued during the next URC meeting
- In the meantime, URC members are encouraged to send Roman any feedback or suggestions

7. AI in Research

- URC members Adam Voight and Kelle DeBoth Foust brought this issue to the URC as a way for the URC to provide leadership in this area
- Several ideas proposed to URC members during the meeting included:
 - Faculty Showcase Series (Brown Bags): Regular (monthly or semesterly) sessions where CSU faculty share concrete ways they are using AI in their research. Highlights CSU faculty expertise and sparks cross-unit dialogue.
 - Seed Funding for AI-Oriented Research Collaborations: A small internal funding program to incentivize interdisciplinary teams experimenting with AI in research. Even modest grants (\$5–10K each) could generate pilot projects leading to external funding.
 - Repository of Faculty Practices: Collect short case studies or guides authored by CSU faculty about their AI use in research. Hosted on URC or Tech Hub web pages as a living resource. Provides external visibility and internal cross-pollination.
- Adam and Kelle will take the lead on this with the Office of Research assisting with advertising and room reservations for the brown bag series
- The Office of Research will send an email to all faculty regarding this new initiative
- In order to do a call for proposals, we would first need to gauge interest

8. Agenda for the Next Meeting

- The next meeting has been scheduled for October 27
- URC members should send Roman feedback or suggestions regarding items discussed during the meeting

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.