

**University Research Council  
Meeting of February 18, 2026**

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

Collins, Cyleste	Rubin, Eran
DeBoth Foust, Kelle	Souther, Mark
Espy, Debbie	Sun Xue-Long
Kumar, Sathish	Voight, Adam
Lovell, Rachel	Wajda, Doug
Ning, Liqun	Zhu, Fengxia (Sandy)
Resnick, Andy	

**Absent/Excused:** Uz, Metin

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

1. Approval of the Agenda for the February 18, 2026 Meeting  
Approved and seconded as written
2. Approval of the Minutes of the November 24, 2025 Meeting  
Approved and seconded as written
3. Workday Platform
  - The university is undertaking an ERP system transformation, moving from PeopleSoft to Workday
  - The current system is no longer manageable due to extensive customization, outdated infrastructure, and the need to pull reports from multiple systems
  - HR and Finance will transition first, including hiring graduate assistants
  - The next stage after HR and Finance implementation will be the student system (CampusNet)
  - Additional changes will be communicated soon, with messaging expected from the Provost to URC and the Deans
  - URC members are encouraged to provide feedback and use this forum for questions and input
  - The goal of the transition is to improve business processes on the administrative side, making them more efficient and faster
  - The target timeline is July 1, 2027, with payroll testing anticipated in early 2027
4. Faculty Workload and Research
  - The current language is intentionally broad to cover all faculty. It was noted that only a small number of faculty have grants that cover courses, allowing for exceptions.

- If resources are available, faculty members may be able to buy out additional time with approval from their department chair, dean, and the Provost
  - The goal is to achieve greater consistency across the university while allowing for recognizable and reasonable plans at the unit level.
  - This year will be treated as a learning process. Documentation should be maintained so that processes are clearer next year.
  - URC agreed to send a recommendation to the Provost's Office for a formal policy to set a threshold. It was noted that faculty cannot buy out all courses in writing if they are below a 9-hour teaching load due to requirements set by the teacher evaluation system. The approach should remain comparable to other local universities.
  - Professor Rubin will draft the language to circulate to URC members, and URC members will approve the memo via email.
5. NSF CAREER Award Workshop
- The Office of Research will be hosting a workshop and Q & A forum for the prestigious NSF CAREER Award for junior faculty on February 23
  - Three recent CAREER awardees from CSU will lead the session.
  - There is potential to form a mentorship group to assist junior faculty in assembling proposals. Two previous awardees were successful after receiving mentoring support.
6. Internal Award Reviewer Assignments
- a. Assigning Reviewers for FSI, FRD, and GSRA Proposals
  - b. Deadlines for Submission of Evaluation Forms to the Office of Research
    - The Office of Research will follow the same detailed timeline as previous years for announcing and publicizing the internal funding opportunities
    - The schedule for this year is as follows:
      - Monday, March 2: FSI and GSRA reviews due to the Office of Research
      - Wednesday, March 4, 1:30 –3:30 pm: URC meeting to review FSI and GSRA proposals
      - Monday, March 16: FRD reviews due to the Office of Research
      - Wednesday, March 18, 1:30 – 3:30 pm: URC meeting to review FRD proposals
7. Agenda for the Next Meeting
- The meeting to review FSI and GSRA proposals has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, from 1:30 am-3:30 pm
  - a. New Business
    - No new business was discussed

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.