CSU | Office of Research

University Research Council
Meeting of September 28, 2026

Attendees: Roman Kondratov (Ex-Officio Member)
Benjamin Ward (Ex-Officio Member)

Clonan-Roy, Katie	Shen, Kyle
Collins, Cyleste	Souther, Mark
Gulshan, Kailash	Sun Xue-Long
Lovell, Rachel	Uz, Metin
Nash, Kyle	Wajda, Doug
Ning, Liqun	Zhu, Fengxia (Sandy)
Resnick, Andy	

Absent/Excused: Nigamanth Sridhar, Chair

Allena, Srinivas	Lammers, Andrew

Guest: John Jeziorowski, Professor and Chair, Institutional Review Board (IRB)

Dr. Kondratov called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda for the September 28, 2026 Meeting
   Approved and seconded as written

2. Introduction of URC Members
   - There are several new and replacement members on the URC this year
   - Members include Srinivas Allena, Katie Clonan-Roy, Kailash Gulshan, Andrew Lammers, Kyle Nash, and Kyle Shen

3. Office of Research Updates
   a. Budget
      - Research expenditures continue to increase, and indirect cost recovery revenues remain in a strong position
      - Faculty Research Development (FRD) awards: 5 awards totaling approximately $200,000
      - Faculty Scholarship Initiative (FSI) : 10 awards totaling $74,041
      - Graduate Student Research Awards (GSRA): 16 awards totaling approximately $72,850
      - Undergraduate Summer Research Award (USRA): $250,000 allocated for program; actual spending is around $280,000
      - Graduate Tuition Program (GTP): approximately $400,000 allocated to support 34 students
   b. Startup Policy Update
   - The startup policy was revised at the request of the Provost and the Deans

- Key changes include:
  - Startup packages will be available only for new startup requests
  - The allowable period for startup expenditures has been reduced from three years to two years
  - Startup funds may now be used for summer salary and course buyouts
  - Equipment purchases must be completed by June 30 of the first year
  - Major equipment purchases are defined as equipment with a value greater than $5,000

4. IRB
   - Dr. John Jeziorowski attended the meeting to discuss Institutional Review Board (IRB) operations and recent improvement
   - A positive working relationship continues between IRB staff and researchers
   - The Cayuse system has been instrumental in managing applications and tracking submissions
   - IRB operations have been streamlined over the past several years, resulting in a more efficient review process
   - IRB oversight applies to human subjects research. Research activities limited to classroom assignments that are not intended for dissemination outside the classroom generally do not require IRB review.
   - Faculty and researchers are encouraged to consult the IRB office whenever there is uncertainty regarding review requirements to avoid potential compliance issues
   - Research data associated with IRB-approved projects must be maintained for at least three years
   - Dr. Jeziorowski was invited to attend a future meeting to provide additional information regarding IRB processes and requirements

5. CUI Data
   - Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) is a classification of data that the US Government considers sensitive but not classified or secret
   - The DoD/DoW implemented the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) that imposes requirements on contractors and subcontractors who handle CUI. Other federal agencies are moving toward similar requirements.
   - CSU has a small number of DoD/DoW grants that require CMMC Level 2 compliance
   - CSU has engaged a third-party provider of a secure data enclave to house any CUI data a CSU researcher might handle
   - Contact Jack Kraszewski and/or Ben Ward if you have questions or concerns about CUI

6. DoD Grant Writing Workshop and Engagement Opportunities
   - DoD Grant Writing Workshop
     - Members were reminded about the Department of Defense Grant Writing Workshop scheduled for October 1, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
   - TEDxClevelandStateUniversity on October 23
     - Opportunity for CSU's researchers/creators to interactive demonstrations that attendees can engage with during the event
     - Contact Ben Ward if interested
   - Innovation Day 2026 on October 29
     - Exhibition of leading-edge innovations emerging from Northeast Ohio's innovation ecosystem
     - Organized jointly by Northeast Ohio's public universities, hosted by UAkron this year

- Poster session (with prizes) for top discoveries and technologies that are being translated from the lab to market/public
- Contact Jack Kraszewski and/or Ben Ward about presenting at Innovation Day

7. Scoring Internal Awards
   - URC members continued discussions regarding evaluation criteria for internal award programs
   - Members discussed the need to better distribute scores and ensure applications are not all evaluated identically
   - The goal is to create greater differentiation among proposals while maintaining consistency across reviewers
   - Internal rankings and review criteria were discussed to improve understanding of the most important evaluation factors
   - URC members and the Office of Research will continue discussions and refinement of the scoring framework at the next meeting

8. Agenda for the Next Meeting
   - The next meeting has been scheduled for November 4 at 10:30 a.m.
   - The scoring criteria discussion will continue at the next URC meeting
   - URC members should send Roman feedback or suggestions regarding items discussed during the meeting

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.