

# CHARTER COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SHARED GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

## Committee: Faculty Senate Research Council

Report Year: Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

<b>Committee Chair(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Fatima Toor, Ph.D.</b> Title/Position Research Council Chair Email: fatima-toor@uiowa.edu Phone: 319-335-6071 Associate Professor-Electrical &amp; Computer Engineering, Term: 2021-27</li><li>• <b>Ariel Aloe, Ph.D.</b> Title/Position Associate Chair Email: ariel-aloe@uiowa.edu Phone: 319-335-5566 Professor-Psychological &amp; Quantitative Foundations, Term: 2020-26</li></ul>
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### **Staff**

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### **Students**

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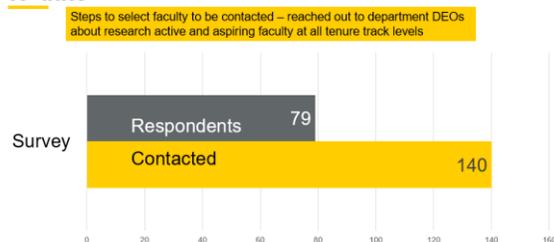
### **Postdoc**

- Laura Dean, Ph.D.

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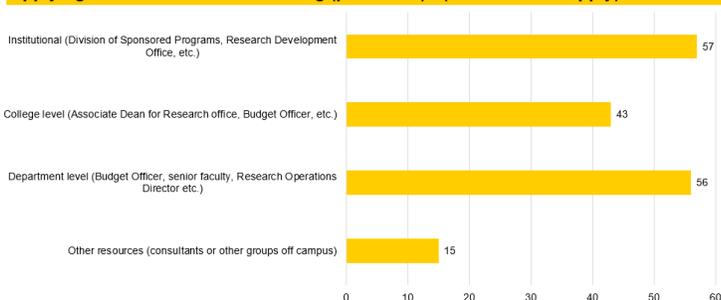
	Phone: 262-237-4657 Postdoctoral Researcher, Term: 2023-2024
<b>Committee Charge</b>	2.8(19)b University Operations Manual  (A) The Council shall be governed by the terms of the General Charter.  (B) In addition, the Council shall: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advise in the formulation, review and application of policy and guidelines for University research and its funding both from within and without the University;</li> <li>2. Advise on questions concerning the compliance of research with University policies;</li> <li>3. Advise in developing methods for informing University members about research opportunities and for stimulating, evaluating and rewarding good research;</li> <li>4. Provide a forum to which faculty and students may refer questions and recommendations concerning University research policies and procedures.</li> </ol>
<b>Current Year Meeting Dates</b>	September 26, 2023; October 24, 2023; November 11, 2023; December 14, 2023; January 11, 2024; March 20, 2024; April 16, 2026; May 7, 2024
<b>Please indicate the typical frequency of meetings (e.g., first Tuesday of month at 4 pm). If there are subcommittees, please indicate the frequency of those meetings, too.</b>	Once a month during the academic year. Typical duration 1.5 hours. Hybrid in-person and Zoom-based attendance by the council members.
<b>Current Year Activities</b>	<p>The council’s primary efforts this year were centered around engagement with the research community. The council was split into two subcommittees:</p> <p><b>Two sub-committees</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid #ccc;"> <p><b>Conversations with UI Researchers on Research Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scott Shaw</li> <li>Fatima Toor</li> <li>Anthony Panos</li> <li>Queena Lin</li> <li>Shelton Stromquist</li> </ul> </div> <div style="background-color: #e1f5fe; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid #ccc;"> <p><b>Collegiate Research Support Benchmarking:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bob Kirby</li> <li>Mihaela Bojin</li> <li>Carrie Figdor</li> <li>David Drake</li> <li>Ariel Aloe</li> <li>Seth King</li> <li>Laura Dean</li> </ul> </div> </div> <p>One committee focused on Conversations with UI Researchers on Research Resources which drafted a Qualtrics survey and determined which faculty group should be surveyed. The committee decided to request DEOs for names of faculty at each tenure-track rank that is research active or research aspiring. Once we received the names of these faculty members across the research active colleges i.e. CLAS, COE, CCOM, Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Nursing, we emailed a survey of questions designed to gauge information on opportunities and challenges for the research enterprise on-campus. The response rate and responses are copied below for record.</p>

## Research resources sub-committee progress to-date



## Research resources: pre-award

What university resources do you utilize when seeking funding opportunities or applying for internal/external funding (pre-award)? (Check all that apply)



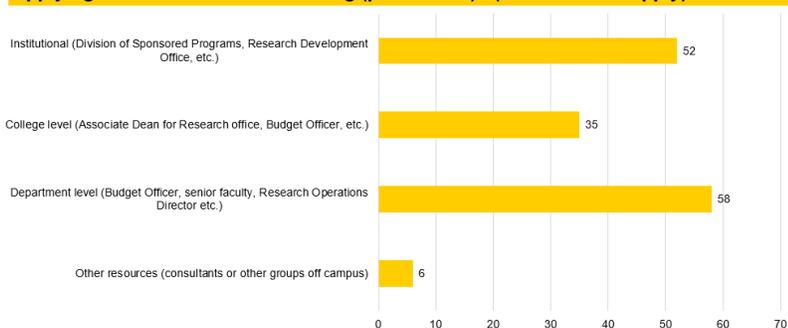
## Research resources: Pre-award summary of free-form responses

What university resources do you utilize when seeking funding opportunities or applying for internal/external funding (pre-award)? (Check all that apply)

- 25% are using off-campus resources (consultants)
  - Who are these resources? It would be good to identify who these consultants are.
- Common resources research faculty are using
  - DSP, IRB, ADR offices, RDO, collegiate library staff, core facilities managers for obtaining LOSs, department funds, department officers where available
- Desire for more pre-award support regarding
  - IRB prep especially for large multicenter grants
  - senior colleague/mentor guidance
  - internal graduate student fellowships access
  - department officer support when not available
  - incentive funding for applying to grants (as is common at other universities)
  - graphics design support for compelling visuals for grants (including an institutional license for BioRender)
  - scientific and/or mock reviewer availability

## Research resources: post-award

What university resources do you utilize when seeking funding opportunities or applying for internal/external funding (post-award)? (Check all that apply)



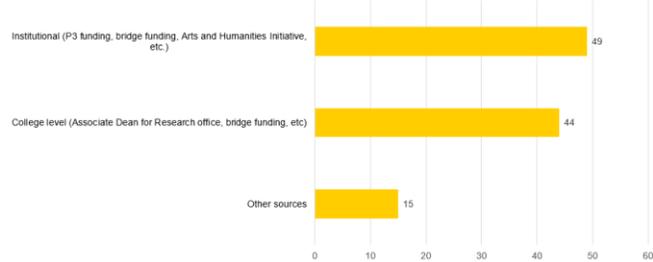
## Research resources: **Post-award** summary of free-form responses

What university resources do you utilize when seeking funding opportunities or applying for internal/external funding (post-award)? (Check all that apply)

- Respondents listed DSP, Grant Accounting Office (GAO), ADR offices, ICTS, and dept-level resources (budget officers/admins)
- Requests for
  - teaching release
  - F&A return
  - being 'thin' on number of support staff leads to lag times on budget reviews, contracts, etc.
  - support for preparing project reports

## Research resources: awareness of funding opportunities

What internal funding opportunities relevant to your field do you know about? Which have you applied for (or received)? Please include funding sources if known.



## Research resources: **Internal funding opportunities** summary of free-form responses

What internal funding opportunities relevant to your field do you know about? Which have you applied for (or received)? Please include funding sources if known.

- Respondents listed DSP, Grant Accounting Office (GAO), ADR offices, ICTS, and dept-level resources (budget officers/admins)
- Requests for
  - teaching release
  - F&A return
  - being 'thin' on number of support staff leads to lag times on budget reviews, contracts, etc.
  - support for preparing project reports

## Research resources: **Internal funding opportunities** summary of free-form responses

What internal funding opportunities relevant to your field do you know about? Which have you applied for (or received)? Please include funding sources if known.

- P3; Pilot grants by various on-campus centers such as EHSRC, Diabetes Center, Cancer Center, ICTS, Obermann Center; OVP Early Career Scholar Award, Tippie Research Excellence Grants
- Concerns around
  - P3 award process being opaque; no feedback received on unsuccessful grant submissions; institutional priorities not clear for P3 awards
- Mentoring is mentioned a lot: Those who've had, benefit. Those without, want.
  - Many informal mentoring relationships, few organized programs/groups

Emeritus faculty were also surveyed and their survey responses are copied below:

Research Council survey of faculty awareness of research services  
Emeritus Faculty responses: 94

Summary

(Many emeriti emphasize the credit UI gets as a result of research activity of emeriti.)

Q1 What UI resources do you utilize in seeking funding or applying for internal/external grants?

Institutional (DSP, etc.)	64
College	49
Department	62
Other resources (consultants, etc.)	21

Text: Institutional. (mostly DSP)  
College (mostly associate deans for research and budget office)  
Department (Sr. faculty, DEO, grants officer)  
Other (colleagues, program officers, consultants)

Q2 What additional support would you like to have when applying for internal/external grants (pre-award)?

Need access to full range of internal support  
Grant proposal writing, editing, budgeting, and review 6  
Seed grants 2  
Assistance with contracts 2  
Grad assistance  
Training—grant applications 4  
Grant support officer—in department 5  
Eligibility for emeriti for OVPR services  
Mentoring (pre-award), college or department 11  
IRB support  
Statistical support  
Start-up support

Q3 What UI resources do you utilize for executing and managing awards (post-award)?

Institutional (DSP, etc.)	57
College	40
Department	83
Other	9

Q4 What additional support would you like for post-award executing and managing funding?

Computer/software support—Dept.  
Library support—additional databases, software 2  
Subventions for publications  
Training/workshops—college level 2

Purchasing for grants—more support 2  
Grant management and budget consultation 11  
Contract management support 5  
Grant report editing 2  
IRB support 3

Q5 What internal funding opportunities in your field are you aware of? Which have you applied for, received? (Many answers reflect pre-retirement experience.)\_

Institutional	55
College	47
Other	18

Institutional  
Most text answers are referencing grants before emeritus status—AHI, P3, etc.

College  
Same.

Other  
Most “small grants” are for newer investigators. Small “carve out” for emeritus faculty would be helpful.

Digital Studio, Main Library  
Cancer Center  
International Programs

Q6 Have you been formally or informally mentored to find research funding? (Many answers reflect pre-retirement experience.)

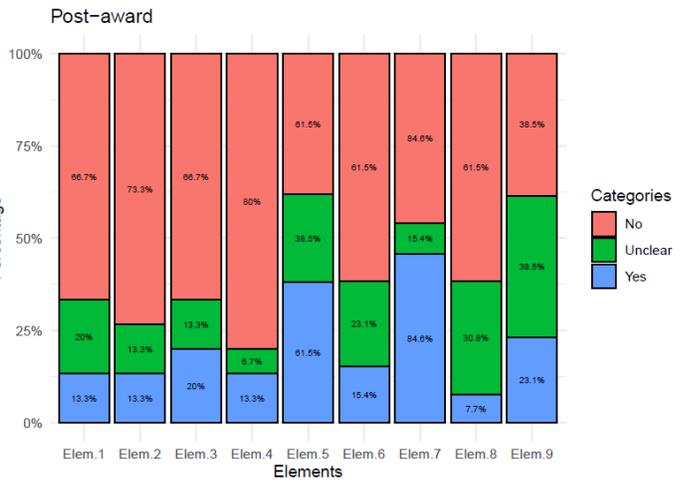
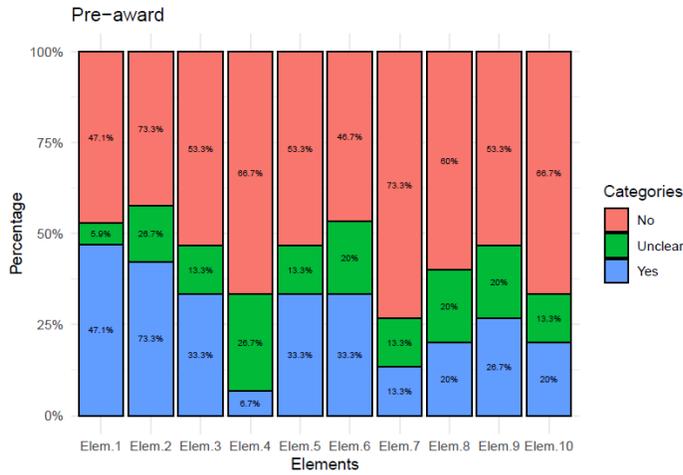
Informal—colleagues and friends 18  
Informal grants group reviews 2  
DSP/OVPR consultation and workshops 10  
Department and college workshops 6  
CCOM grant writing workshops  
NIH workshops 2

The second subcommittee’s overall goal was to identify what services (or resources) were offered to researchers in each college. The extracted elements were identified as services/resources that are provided/available at pre-award and post-award (the list of pre-award and post-award elements is provided below). Each member of the working group was assigned a set of websites. The task was to score as present (i.e., Yes), absent (i.e., No), or unclear (Unclear) for each pre-award and post-award services/resources (i.e., elements). The original plan was for all websites to be appraised by two members. The absence of elements listed on the website does not directly imply that such service/resource is not available/provided to researchers. The specific element may be provided but not listed on the website. Some results are copied below:

**Pre-award**

A total of 10 pre-award elements were extracted from those websites. The individual elements were:

- ## [1] "Provide Information on Available Grants and Funding Opportunities (pre)"
- ## [2] "Provide Seed Funding (pre)"
- ## [3] "Provide Assistance with Proposal Budget (pre)"
- ## [4] "Provide Assistance with Biosketch (pre)"
- ## [5] "Provide Assistance with Writing/Editing (pre)"
- ## [6] "Provide Guidance on Framing (intellectual feedback) the Application (pre)"
- ## [7] "Provide Examples of Proposals (pre)"
- ## [8] "Provide Assistance with IRB (pre)"
- ## [9] "Provide Assistance about compliance and regulations (pre)"
- ## [10] "Provide Assistance in Data Management Plan (pre)"



**Topics your committee will address during the coming year**

- The two subcommittees will continue our efforts to understand the pre- and post-award opportunities and challenges for researchers on-campus via internal discussions and by holding open forums at the two campus sites on each side of the river to get additional feedback and inputs. The idea is to generate a report of our findings for the ADRs of various colleges so that they can make actionable changes to their respective research enterprises.
- Research council will continue to meet with additional leadership of the key offices to learn about the opportunities and challenges of the research enterprise on-campus.
- The council will continue to support the OVPR in policy changes related to research security as the federal policy landscape evolves.
- The council will continue to explore additional opportunities and venues to engage with the research enterprise on-campus.
- The council will meet the ADRs at the OVPR’s monthly meeting to share and learn.

**Other issues of concern**

	<p>As an R1 university, Faculty Senate Research Council needs to continue to have a prominent role in the shared governance of the university. Active and successful researchers from various colleges need to be recruited to join the council so that they can contribute to increasing the impact and excellence of the research enterprise on-campus, deriving from their own achievements and success.</p>
<p><b>What should we tell applicants for this committee regarding expectations of members (anticipated workload, existence of subcommittees, etc.)?</b></p>	<p>Research Council meets 7-8 times a year for &lt; 2 h. Any effort expended beyond that is voluntary and focused on a specific task. The mission of the Research Council is to promote research at the University and so advise in diverse areas as it pertains to the research enterprise.</p>
<p><b>Does your committee have a website? If so, what is the URL?</b></p>	<p><a href="https://research.uiowa.edu/research-council">https://research.uiowa.edu/research-council</a></p>
<p><b>Are agendas and minutes for your committee preserved from year to year and made available to new chairs and committee members? If so, what is your process for doing this?</b></p>	<p>Yes meeting minutes are available on the web:  <a href="https://research.uiowa.edu/research-council-minutes-and-reports">https://research.uiowa.edu/research-council-minutes-and-reports</a></p> <p>As well as Research Council Chair updates:  <a href="https://research.uiowa.edu/ui-research-council/updates-research-council-chair">https://research.uiowa.edu/ui-research-council/updates-research-council-chair</a></p>
<p><b><i>Recommendations, if any, to the shared governance groups.</i></b></p>	<p>Make a concerted effort to recruit active and successful researchers from various colleges as council members so that they can contribute to increasing the impact and excellence of the research enterprise on-campus, deriving from their own achievements and success.</p>