

The Research Advisory Council (RAC) Activities for 2019-2020 (so far).

- 1) We finalized our Standard Operating Procedures. This concluded a process initiated last year. Our SOP is attached as a separate document. Terms for each elected member will last three years and are staggered, with 1/3 of the council rotating off each year. A new Vice Chair is elected every year from members in their first or second year of appointment. The Vice Chair will assist the Chair during the year in which he or she is elected and will become the Chair the next year. John Kevern from SICE was elected Vice Chair.
- 2) The current membership roster is attached as a separate document
- 3) The RAC will seek to support and improve research and scholarship at UMKC. Faculty with concerns should communicate these concerns to their representative. Minutes are posted online on the ORS web site (<http://ors.umkc.edu/office-of-research-services>) under the Research Advisory Council tab and are available with UMKC login name and password,
- 4) The RAC is working with the new Vice Chancellor for Research Liu, who joined UMKC this summer. One of his major goals (as well as a goal for the RAC) is to double or research funding and raise UMKC to a R1-level research university.
- 5) The RAC is working to reduce delays that impede research –e.g., delays in hiring postdocs and getting approval for installation of new software.
- 6) The RAC reviewed allocation of Facilities and Administrative Costs between the Central Administration and individual Units at several of our peer institutions and found a wide range of distributions; UMKC's 50%-50% distribution falls within this range.
- 7) A major initiative of the RAC is to establish University-wide cores that support research endeavors. Currently these cores are supported by individual Units, and additional funds and more central administration are needed. It is hoped that these funds might come from UMKC or the UMKC foundation. The possibility of additional University funding was discussed at a meeting with Provost Bichelmeyer and VC Sharon Lindenbaum, and of UMKC Foundation support at a meeting with UMKC Foundation President Lisa Baronio. The RAC is currently drafting a document to justify support for these cores, as suggested by the Provost and Foundation President. This document will be used to solicit additional money from UMKC and donors. At the moment, the well-formulated plans are for cores supporting life science work (mass spectrometry, NMR and microscopy), but it is hoped that other cores (even some outside the sciences) might be proposed as well.
- 8) The RAC is also working to draft a document that will identify and describe University-wide research strengths. These areas of strength will be formulated with database searches and faculty input.
- 9) The RAC reviewed 40 Faculty Funding for Excellence (FEE) grant applications and funded 9 of these. We are currently considering revisions to the FEE funding procedures, and we would like to obtain additional funding for these applications.