



**USF Senate Research Council  
Meeting Minutes  
April 7, 2024, 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.  
3702 Spectrum Blvd., Ste. 165, Tampa, FL 33612  
MS Teams**

**Attendance Council Members**

Feng Chang, Elizabeth Hadley, Ganesh Halade, Richard Heller, Matthew Johnson, James Leahy, Mark Luther, Jong Chool Park, Xizhen Qin, Ehsan Sheybani, David Simmons, Marilyn Stern, Derek Wildman

**Not Attended**

Uma Nair, Taryn Sabia, Kristina Schmidt, Kersuze Simeon-Jones Zafer Unal, Catherine Wilkins

**Invited Guests and Other Participants**

Eddie Aikins, Norma Alcantar, Ross DeBose, John Johnson, Sandra Justice, Eric Kern, Jessie Kobiolka, Tina Lucas, Mark McLaughlin, Jason Ramage, Stephanie Rios, Benjamin Shnitser, Sylvia Thomas, Karen Walker

1. **Call to Order:** Dr. Heller called the meeting to order at 10:46 a.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the meeting held on March 24, 2025, were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.
3. **Nominations and votes for the next term Chair and Vice Chair for the Research Council:** A motion to nominate Ganesh Halade as Research Council Chair, and Maryln Stern as Vice-Chair for the 2025-2026 term, was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.
4. **Proposal Enhancement Grants reviews:** The committee conducted a thorough review of 15 highly competitive Proposal Enhancement Grant applications, focusing on selecting candidates for funding recommendations. Following this evaluation, the council recommended funding for the following five proposals:
  - **Juan Carlos Cardet-Guisasola, College of Medicine** *Impact of Genetic Variation in the RGS Pathway on Airway Epithelial Cell Function in Asthma*
  - **Uma Nair, College of Nursing** *Steps to Quit: A Pilot Feasibility and Acceptability Intervention*
  - **Richard Pollenz, College of Arts and Sciences** *Functional Analysis of Holin-Like Proteins from Bacteriophages That Infect Gram-Positive Bacterial Strains*
  - **Paul Camilo Zalamea Zamora, College of Arts and Sciences** *Collaborative Research: Tropical Tree Responses to Phosphorus Limitation Under Elevated [CO<sub>2</sub>]: Diversity and Flexibility of Resource Acquisition and Use*
  - **Zhiming Ouyang, Morsani College of Medicine** *Environmental Signaling and Virulence Regulation in *Borrelia burgdorferi**
5. **Other Business** No additional items were discussed.

**Adjournment:** Having completed its agenda, the council adjourned at 11:53 p.m.