



**USF Senate Research Council
Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2024, 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
3702 Spectrum Blvd., Ste. 165, Tampa, FL 33612
MS Teams**

Attendance Council Members

Elizabeth Hadley, Ganesh Halade, Richard Heller, Matthew Johnson, James Leahy, Mark Luther, Uma Nair, Jong Chool Park, , David Simmons, Marilyn Stern, Zafer Unal, Derek Wildman, Catherine Wilkins

Not Attended

Feng Chang, Taryn Sabia, Kristina Schmidt, Kersuze Simeon-Jones, Ehsan Sheybani, Xizhen Qin,

Invited Guests and Other Participants

Ross DeBose, Sandra Johnson Austin, Sandra Justice, Eric Kern, Jessie Kobiolka, Tina Lucas, Mark McLaughlin, Jason Ramage, Stephanie Rios, Benjamin Shnitser, Sylvia Thomas

1. **Call to Order:** Dr. Heller called the meeting to order at 10:47 a.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on April 7, 2025, were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.
3. **Update on the Institutes and Center Initiative:** Eric Kern introduced the Institutes and Centers Compliance and Strategic Planning Initiative.
 - The initiative involves the Office of the Provost, the Office of Decision Support, and the Office of Research and Innovation.
 - The goal is to align with Board of Governors (BOG) requirements and strategize institutes and centers to support the research enterprise.
4. **Interdisciplinary Center Preparation Grant Reviews:** The committee thoroughly reviewed nine highly competitive Interdisciplinary Center Preparation Grant applications, focusing on selecting candidates for funding. Following this evaluation, the council approved funding for the following four proposals:
 - **Yael Bensoussan, 1640** - *Planting the Seeds of Collaboration: The Fortification of Cross-Disciplinary Programs for The Institute for Voice and Hearing Innovation, \$300K over two years*
 - **Tingting Zhang, 1636** - *The Center for Biological and Food Innovations in AI and Robotics for Children's Nutrition and Health (Bio-FAIRCH), \$300K over two years*
 - **Stephanie Carey, 1641** - *ASTRA (Aerospace Science, Technology, Research and Applications) Center, \$150K over two years*
 - **Claire Smith, 1643** - *DREAM-AI Center Development: Dynamic Rest Enhancement and Measurement using Artificial Intelligence, \$150K over two years*
5. **Other Business** No additional items were discussed.

Adjournment: Having completed its agenda, the council adjourned at 12:21 p.m.