

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Faculty Senate Research Committee

RE: Report of 16 January 2025 meeting

DATE: 21 January 2025

The committee met with Dr. JoAnn Browning, Interim Vice President of Research, and Ms. Lori Schultz, Senior Associate Vice President for Research Administration, to discuss the points listed below. Dr. Browning introduced Ms. Schultz and presented her scope of responsibility. Ms. Schultz will join future meetings. Further, Dr. Browning made a Powerpoint presentation that informed the questions below. In addition, Dr. Browning is working with Dr. Chris Packham and the UT System to provide additional support of journal open access fees. Further efforts will be made regarding disclosure of collaborations with foreign scholars and entities.

1. What is being done to bring down wait times on contracts and on account set ups?
2. Related to #1, we have seen means for wait times, but would really like to see where the slowest 10% or so are (i.e., the “problem awards” and what makes them problematic).
3. What is being done to help ensure F&A recovery funds are deposited back to PIs quickly (last few years have been very slow)?
4. What steps have been taken to begin to address the issue of providing support for submission fees / open access publishing fees for disciplines in which those are common?
5. What feedback has been received so far on the restructure / the extent to which PIs feel the personnel distributed to the colleges are improving response times / support?
6. How has communication with grants accounting proceeded to make balances and availability of funds more transparent and accurate?
7. What can PIs do to assist your efforts?
8. When will COEHD get their own concierge?