

University Senate Research Committee (USRC)
Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2020

Meeting conducted by Zoom

Attended by: David Ecker (CELT), Jeffrey Edwards (Philosophy), Iris Fineberg: Chair (School of Social Welfare), Chris Kretz (Library), Jerome Liang (Radiology), Marci Lobel (Psychology), Anne McElroy (SoMAS), Thomas Robertazzi (Electrical and Computer Engineering), Jason Trelewicz (Material Science), Tzu-Chieh Wei (Physics and Astronomy), Wei Zhu (Applied Mathematics and Statistics)

The VP for Research, Richard Reeder, provided a draft several days ago of the research return to work document that the taskforce has created. He requested feedback from the committee, and comments were compiled for response to him and the taskforce.

Since the draft provided to the committee, an updated draft has been created by the taskforce. The committee discussed the update on the plan, informed by Anne McElroy who is on the plan taskforce. Several of the topics noted included the goals for the research restart phasing and approach to reopening prioritization (for example: labs with large research expenditures?). Support services need to be in place. With campus buildings locked, researchers need to know they can access their buildings. The role and maintenance of ventilation was noted. The university safety policy for people working in labs is already in place and needs to be considered.

It was noted that childcare on campus has only been available to health care staff; the question arose of whether that would be expanded to research faculty. Concerns were noted about what rights we have to require certain things of human research participants in the COVID environment.

Written feedback from the committee will be provided to Richard Reeder prior to today's meeting of the taskforce.

The chair provided an overview of notes from the RAC meeting.