

## Research Advisory Council

### Agenda Item: Research Space Policy Development

May 2, 2016

**Background:**

In recent meetings of the Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC), the topic of research space has become a persistent theme.

In the November 4, 2015 and February 10, 2016 meetings, there have been preliminary presentations of the UMKC Space Needs and Utilization Analysis which is being prepared by Paulien & Associates. That report has raised concerns about the low utilization of research space on campus, with particular focus on the Volker campus, when compared with two typical higher education benchmarks:

- research expenditures per assignable square feet (ASF) and
- average research expenditure per principal investigator (PI).

The report used an average of the last three years of research expenditures with data provided by the Office of Research Services. The chart below comes from this draft report:

**Table 5.1 - Research Space by Academic Unit**

Volker Campus						
Academic Unit	ASF	2015 Expend	3 Yr Avg Exp	3 Yr Avg \$ Exp/ASF	PI #	AVG \$/PI
Chemistry	14,236	\$ 198,130	\$ 323,634	\$ 22.73	7	\$ 46,233
Geosciences	615	\$ 274,429	\$ 232,690	\$ 378.17	6	\$ 38,782
Physics & Astro	10,156	\$ 1,224,548	\$ 1,442,917	\$ 142.07	6	\$ 240,486
Psychology	9,389	\$ 1,002,123	\$ 1,114,170	\$ 118.66	9	\$ 123,797
Biological Sci	41,012	\$ 834,162	\$ 1,518,861	\$ 37.03	18	\$ 84,381
Civil Mechanical	4,172	\$ 444,950	\$ 382,780	\$ 158.40	12	\$ 31,898
Computer and EE	3,763	\$ 416,954	\$ 348,548	\$ 92.63	8	\$ 43,568
	<b>83,344</b>	<b>\$ 4,395,295</b>	<b>\$ 5,363,599</b>	<b>\$ 64.36</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>\$ 81,267</b>

*High and low values are highlighted.*

In the April 13, 2016 FAC Meeting, Professor Jerry Wyckoff presented concerns from a group of School of Biological Sciences faculty with respect to the loss of research space in the Spencer Hall/ School of Biological Sciences Building Renovations.

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**Concerns:**

Discussion at the April FAC meeting included the outdated and very general Research Space Policy provisions that were incorporated into the April 21, 2009 UMKC Space Planning and Management: Policies and Procedures. The Research Space Policy was adopted by the Provost on June 10, 2004 and revised on September 13, 2004. A copy is attached to this document for your information.

It was noted at the April FAC meeting that the policy are very general in nature and lack little specific criteria and process to address either the data from the UMKC Space Needs and Utilization Analysis or the concerns that were being raised by Professor Wyckoff.

**FAC Recommendation:**

After discussion of the above background and concerns, the FAC introduced and unanimously approved a motion that a joint Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC)/ Research Advisory Council (RAC) task force be formed to evaluate the existing UMKC Research Space Policy and to propose, as deemed appropriate, either revisions to the existing policy or a new policy that would address the concerns raised initially and through the course of further discussion. The structure of this task force could be determined by the FAC/RAC chairs, but it was agreed that they should include primarily research faculty representation from both committees. Staff support could be provided jointly by Campus Facilities Management and Office of Research Services. As a joint member of both the FAC and RAC, Bob Simmons agreed to address this motion to Dr. Dreyfus and the RAC.

Attachment:

Research Space Policy – adopted by the Provost on June 10, 2004 and revised on September 13, 2004 (Three Pages)

## **B. Research Space Policy**

*As adopted by Provost on June 10, 2004 and Revised 9-13-04.*

Fulfilling our institutional vision will require resources in the form of dollars, facilities, and people. This policy addresses research space, which is one critical component of these resources. The overall objective of this policy is to help assure that university space is sufficient and that its use is flexible enough to support our mission. Accordingly, the policies and guidelines described below address the allocation and use of research space and are designed to:

- Enhance the scholarly productivity of the faculty,
- Increase the amount of sponsored research, and
- Recruit and retain faculty members.

**1. Definition of research space:** Research space is space used in the conduct of research and is considered to include all space used by personnel involved in the research, including faculty researchers, undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral students, research assistants and associates, and technical and managerial staff. This definition includes activities involving the training of individuals to conduct research where the space is also used for other research purposes. Institutional Resource Facilities that may be used by multiple researchers are also included in the definition of research space. Faculty office space is not considered research space, nor is classroom or laboratory space that is used solely or predominantly for instruction.

### **2. Authority for assigning space**

- a. The Collected Rules and Regulations (section 110.010) of the University of Missouri vest authority for the assignment of space with the chancellor.
- b. As delegated by the chancellor, the Provost and Vice-Chancellors will establish policies and procedures for the assignment and use of research space, including both existing and newly created space.

- c. Deans will have authority for the assignment of research space within their academic units as delegated by the provost.

### **3. Criteria/factors used to assign research space**

Research space is considered to be a valuable resource to be judiciously assigned in support of the campus mission and goals. Research space assigned to individual faculty members, departments, or academic units should not be considered to be permanent. Faculty members may be subject to reassignment of research space as a result of inadequate research productivity. Factors such as the amount of external research support, indirect cost recovery, supervision of graduate students, residents, scholarly activity, and fellows on research projects may be considered in reassigning space. Prior to reassignment of their research space, faculty members will be afforded an opportunity to provide additional information in support of their current space assignment.

Periodic reviews of space utilization should be conducted to assess current and future research space requirements and to determine if research space is being used efficiently and effectively. Such reviews will use established campus criteria, including the centrality of the program to the campus mission, the scholarly productivity of the program and its future potential, the amount of external funding, the programmatic requirements of individual projects, the contributions to graduate education, and the extent to which the program involves inter-departmental or interdisciplinary collaborations.

Any reassignments of research space should minimize disruptions to active research, while balancing the needs of both individual programs and the goals of the university. These criteria will be used to reallocate space among academic units and to assign space to individual projects.

In addition, academic deans and department chairs are encouraged to develop additional specific criteria for research space assignments within their units. National standards and information from comparator institutions should be employed, as appropriate, for these purposes.

Academic units requesting additional research space must provide justifications based on these criteria. Inter-school sharing of space and interdisciplinary collaborations and partnerships involving the shared use of space are encouraged.