The Faculty Council on Research is responsible for all matters of policy relating to research according to Faculty Code, Sec 42-37.

2009/10 was a very busy year for the FCR. Like many councils, the economic difficulties of the State and University made the issues addressed by the FCR all the more critical and complex. Much of our attention was related to stimulus bump (predicted to be @$300 Million on a more than billion dollar annual effort) and the fact that research was becoming an increasingly larger percentage of the overall university budget. In this environment, many regular FCR issues took on new aspects while other new issues emerged. Throughout the year, faculty FCR representatives worked closely with staff and faculty in the Provost’s Office of Research to address these myriad issues.

The University continued to be successful in attracting ARRA awards. This led to an increased load on the University’s central offices, such as Human Resources Operations, Procurement Services, Office of Sponsored Programs. The FCR prepared, with the help of OSP, a set of certificates thanking the staff of the Grant and Contract Accounting, Financial Accounting, Procurement Services, Human Resources Information Systems, and Human Resources Operations for their extraordinary effort in meeting the sudden challenges posed by the high influx of ARRA awards.

Much of the fall quarter was concerned with the Two Years Two Decades project. State support for the University’s instructional mission is less than revenues received from tuition. Tuition covers 55% of the cost of instruction, while state support covers 45%. Therefore new sources of support and a new business model are needed. Vice-Provost Lidstrom defined a number of focus groups to explore how changes to the University’s business model will affect the Discovery aspect of the University’s mission. She defined Discovery as research and scholarly activity. The FCR acted as one of the focus groups and provided input throughout the fall and winter quarters. For example, the FCR was asked for input on the criteria that should be used to evaluate departments and activities.

One of the FCR’s principal roles is to approving classified (C), proprietary (P) and restricted (R) CPR research. This is handled by a sub-committee charged with vetting the proposals before bringing them to the full GCR for a vote. The FCR was concerned with about a dozen such proposals during this academic year, a vast increase over the usual two or three per year. A new example we are seeing is export controls, which may restrict participation in a project. The number of requests for the UW to approve proposals with diverse restrictions is increasing as faculty members seek and find new non-governmental sources of funding. It is important to follow the UW rules regarding such contracts in order to preserve the University’s status as being concerned with basic research. As a result of our considerations, the FCR decided to
appoint the Facility Security Officer from the Office of Research as an ex officio representative on our CPR subcommittee.

FCR also coordinated with the University Libraries Council. The FCUL formed a working group to advance Open Access from the point of view of faculty. Richard Wright of our FCR agreed to serve on the working group.

Issues associated with Research Faculty form another set of ongoing FCR concerns. Numerous issues associated with research faculty and their interactions with the rest of the University were an important topic for FCR in the coming year. One problem is related to the need to keep research faculty from being 100% funded on grants, which might mean they cannot legally write new grants or participate in departmental activities. A recent development is the switch from quarterly to six month reporting, which should help. OSP is working on a new policy concerned with legal jeopardy for grant writing.

It has been my pleasure to serve as FCR Chair for 2009-2010, and I offer incoming Chair Ron Stenkamp my best wishes for a successful next year.

FCR members 2009-2010

President’s Designee
Mary E. Lidstrom, Vice Provost for Research

Voting Faculty
Sara Curran, Jackson School
David Fluharty, Marine Affairs
Mark Haselkorn, Human Centered Design & Engineering
Apurva Jain, Information Systems
Axel Roesler, Art
Susan Spieker, Family and Child Nursing
Ronald Stenkamp, Biological Structure
Daniel Vogt, Forest Resources
Richard Wright, Linguistics

Ex Officio
Susanne Redalje, ALUW Representative
Ryan Schmidt, ASUW Representative
Colin Smith, PSO Representative
David Foster, UWRA Representative
Jim Fridley, Faculty Legislative Representative
James Poland, Faculty Security Officer