

VC, 17 Nov 14

Dear NAME,

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to serve as an inaugural member of the University Research Council.

By way of background, last May, our university decided to change the leadership structure of the Graduate School, and to create two leadership positions (the Dean of the Graduate School and the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education). The change in leadership structure also mandated a change in governance. The Graduate Faculty Executive Committee and the Graduate School Academic Planning Council will remain as the governance groups of the Graduate School. For the activities included as part of the office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education, a new group will be assembled, referred to as the University Research Council.

The office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education (VCRGE) has responsibility for optimizing and enhancing the research infrastructure and opportunities of the UW-Madison, as well as for the annual allocation of funds from WARF to the UW-Madison, for 17 interdisciplinary research centers, and for research compliance.

The primary function of the University Research Council (URC) will be providing advice to the VCRGE and the VCR leadership team about these areas. This is a time of significant change for our university with respect to research infrastructure and organization. Much work has been carried out during the past several months, and I would greatly value the opportunity to present these activities to you and seek your advice about next steps. Additionally, although these are very difficult times with respect to research funding, we expect that additional resources will be made available to the VCRGE from WARF in the coming years. Strategic allocation of these funds will be critical to the UW-Madison's ability to adapt to the new Federal funding climate, while at the same time maintain its position of prominence in both research expenditures but even more importantly in research discoveries. Your advice and guidance regarding possible initiatives will be critical to our university's future.

Of great importance is sustaining a climate supportive of diverse areas of scholarship, research and application – ranging from fundamental basic science, to translational and clinical research, to scholarship in the arts and humanities, and encompassing entrepreneurial activities. Our university must continue to support all of these types of scholarly and research activities, and your expertise will make this possible.

The URC will meet once a month, starting spring semester. One additional important aspect of the inaugural committee's mandate is to determine how the committee will function and what its purview will be in the future, which will be codified in FP&P.

I sincerely hope you will agree to join me in this important work.

Sincerely,

Marsha R. Mailick, Ph.D.
Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education
Vaughan Bascom and Elizabeth M. Boggs Professor

Cc: Jo Ellen Fair, Chair of the University Committee
Heather McFadden, Chair of ASEC