

University Research Council  
Annual Report  
2016-17

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I. Purpose & Charge

The University Research Council (URC) shall serve as an advisory body to the Vice President for Research on matters pertaining to the development of research and creative activities at The University of Southern Mississippi. To this end, the URC will recommend policies and procedures to the Vice President for Research which will encourage The University of Southern Mississippi to realize its potential for distinction in research, creative, and scholarly activities.

II. URC Membership (2016-17)

• **FACULTY MEMBERS**

Brian J. Collins, CoB (brian.collins@usm.edu) 2015-18  
Carol Connell, CoH (carol.connell@usm.edu) 2013-16  
Melanie Gilmore, CoN (melanie.gilmore@usm.edu) 2015-18  
Bonnie L. Harbaugh, CoN (bonnie.harbaugh@usm.edu) 2015-18  
Fujun Lai, CoB (fujun.lai@usm.edu) 2016-2018  
Michael Madson, CoEP (michael.madson@usm.edu) 2015-18  
Chad Miller, CoB (chad.r.miller@usm.edu) 2015-18  
Richard Mohn, CoEP (richard.mohn@usm.edu) 2015-18  
Jake Schaefer, CoST (jake.schaefer@usm.edu) 2015-18  
Joyce Shaw, University Libraries (joyce.shaw@usm.edu) 2015-18 (2nd term)  
Lorraine Stuart, University Libraries (lorraine.stuart@usm.edu) 2015-18  
Steven Venette, CoAL (steven.venette@usm.edu) 2014-17

• **EX OFFICIO MEMBERS**

Sam Bruton, ORI (samuel.bruton@usm.edu)  
Gordon Cannon, VPR (gordon.cannon@usm.edu)  
Jennifer Downey, Rep. for Dr. Cannon (jennifer.downey@usm.edu)  
Marcia Landen, ORA (marcia.landen@usm.edu)  
Syd Conner, ORA (syd.conner@usm.edu)  
Stephanie Guest, ORA (stephanie.guest@usm.edu)

### III. Activities

- **University Research Awards**

Typically, the University Research Awards Day (URAD) is held in November at the Thad Cochran Center. Initially, the URAD was to be held on Monday, April 10, 2017 but the USM Administration wanted to present the awards as part of the Faculty Awards Ceremony on May 5, 2017. Dr. Jake Schaefer served as the chair for the Innovation Awards and also introduced the winners at the Faculty Awards Ceremony.

- **University Research Innovation Award Winners for 2016-17**

Vijay Rangachari	Chemistry	Multidisciplinary Innovation Award
Robson Storey	Polymers	Academic Partnership
Philip Bates	Chemistry	Applied Research
Mark Rigsby	Art and Design	Creative Activities
Marie Danforth	Anthropology	Research Advocate
Khemraj B.C	Biological Sciences	Graduate Student
Donald Sacco	Psychology	Basic Research

- **URC Meetings**

The URC met the last during the fall semester in September and October and during the spring semester in February, March, and April.

- **URC Review of Internal Grants**

At the behest of Dr. Gordon Cannon, the URC reviewed internal grant applications and forwarded recommendations to Dr. Cannon.

- **URC By-Laws**

No changes.

- **URC Chair**

The Chair of the URC for 2017-18 is Dr. Brian J. Collins (College of Business).

Respectfully submitted:

Dr. Brian J. Collins (College of Business)  
Chair, University Research Council, 2016-17