

**Board of Directors Meeting
Research Support Funds Ad Hoc Committee
December 4, 2025
1:30 p.m. via Zoom**

MINUTES

A meeting of the Research Support Funds Ad Hoc Committee of San Diego State University Research Foundation Board of Directors was held via video conference on Thursday, December 4, 2025, pursuant to the notice duly posted for public information.

The following Board Members were present: President Adela de la Torre
Hala Madanat
Agnes Wong Nickerson

The following Advisory Members were present: Michele Goetz
Leslie Levinson

The following Guests were present: Corinne McDaniels-Davidson

I. Call to Order

President Adela de la Torre called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and welcomed committee members and guest Dr. Corinne McDaniels-Davidson, faculty fellow in Research Operations in SDSU's Division of Research and Innovation and an associate professor in the School of Public Health, who was in attendance to provide a presentation about the Research Support Funds faculty survey.

II. Public Comment

President de la Torre noted that the meeting would begin with public comments. No members of the media or public were present; therefore, she moved on to the first agenda item.

III. Overview of Current Federal Actions/Potential Impacts

Ms. Michele Goetz, Associate Vice President and CEO of SDSU Research Foundation, gave an overview of current federal actions and potential impacts. She noted that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) are confirmed to be working on modifications to Uniform Guidance, but that no date for proposed changes has been communicated. She noted that the government shutdown has delayed proposal reviews and grant awards, impacting approximately 24,000 proposals nationally, and deep cuts to NIH, NSF, and other agencies' budgets that typically fund research are being proposed by the current administration; however, it is not clear how these various factors will ultimately affect Congressional budget allocations. Ms. Goetz noted that the most significant impact on SDSURF would be the proposed rate cap or other reductions on F&A. She then moved on to provide a quick overview of proposals and awards as of November 30, 2025, noting that proposals submitted are slightly up but that total amount awarded and F&A are down. Discussion ensued.

IV. Foundation Budget Update/Rent Shortfalls

Ms. Leslie Levinson, Chief Financial Officer of SDSU Research Foundation, gave a brief overview of the Foundation budget status noting that the mid-year budget update will be presented to the Board in March. Discussion ensued.

V. Solicitation of Faculty Input

Dr. Corinne McDaniels-Davidson provided the committee with an overview of the results of the survey that was sent to SDSU faculty and PIs to solicit input on research priorities. She noted that faculty provided extensive input on research support needs, RSF usage patterns, and emerging priorities across ranks and appointment types.

Faculty engagement in the process was high. Many expressed interests in participating in continued discussions as the situation evolves, signaling a strong desire for transparency, collaboration, and shared problem-solving. Faculty also provided candid feedback about the RSF model, including concerns about centralized F&A structures, the competitiveness of certain funding mechanisms, and the importance of honoring existing commitments.

Dr. McDaniels-Davidson noted that the Division of Research and Innovation will continue to explore the data from multiple perspectives, including deeper analysis by rank, appointment type, and RSF eligibility. She further noted results of the survey will be reviewed at the December meeting of the University Research Council and at the SDSURF December board meeting. The floor opened for discussion.

VI. Discussion of Decision Points

The committee discussed the information provided and decided to continue to pause the distribution of RSF until another meeting can be held, as close as possible to the end of January, when more information would be available on the outcomes of actions by Congress and OMB.

VII. New Business

President de la Torre called for any items of new business. Hearing none, she adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully,

Michele G. Goetz

Michèle G. Goetz
Associate Secretary-Treasurer