

***J. Crayton Pruitt Family Department of Biomedical Engineering  
Faculty Meeting Agenda***

Wednesday, February 19, 2025  
3:00 – 4:30pm

**Attendees:** Allen, Bolch, Ding, Fan, Ferrall-Fairbanks, Ferris, Furtney, Geiger, Gong, Hudalla, Keselowsky, Lewis, Mansy, Nichols, Parker, Phelps, Porras, Rashidi, Schmidt, Sharma, Stabler, Taylor, Wasykowski, Williams

1. **Call to Order** – assign attendance/[note taker - Porras](#)
2. **Guest** – Dr. John Byatt, Faculty Liaison, UF Innovate | Tech Licensing (20 minutes)
  - [Provided overview of services and programs at UF Innovate \(Tech Licensing, Pathways, Ventures and Accelerate\)](#)
  - [Key takeaway – if you and your team have an idea that you think might be interesting, reach out to the tech licensing office. It is never too early](#)
    - [Submit an invention disclosure online](#)
      - [Triggers sponsor communication commitments \(federal and private\)](#)
    - [Evaluation within 120 days](#)
    - [If an idea is “early stage”, call before disclosing. Might be better to gather more data before starting the 120 day clock](#)
  - [What can we license? Think broadly. Examples: genetically modified cell lines or bacteria, monoclonal antibodies, plasmids, training data sets for AI, software, etc..](#)
  - [Invention must be novel, useful, and “not-obvious”](#)
    - [Novel – is it in the public domain before filing the patent? i.e. has it been published or presented before at a conference. If they have, we can only get rights in the United States.](#)
  - [The Tech Licensing office doesn’t want to delay publication but does want us to let them know ahead of print so a patent can be filed first](#)
  - [If doing industry sponsored research, reach out to Tech Licensing to initiate IP term conversations early](#)
3. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes** – January 22, 2025 minutes emailed in advance  
[Ferrall-Fairbanks/Wes Approved](#)
4. **Important Dates to Note** (mark your calendars!)
  - Events
    - 2/20-2/23 – Grad Recruiting
    - 3/8 – BME Education Outreach Day
    - 3/13 – Biomaterials Day
    - 3/29-31 – AIMBE
    - 4/7 – Pruitt Undergraduate Research and Industry Networking Event
    - 4/9-12 – SFB
    - 4/15 – FARs Due
    - 4/17 – Senior Design Showcase

Awards Deadlines (Jamal)

- 2/20 – Provost Excellence Awards for Assistant Professors
- 2/28 – HWCOE Faculty and Staff Awards in Leadership and Innovation
- 3/12 – HWCOE Faculty Senate Nominations
- 3/21 – BMES Awards

Seminars (Meghan)

- 2/24 – Wenjun Xie, UF
- 3/3 – Melissa Kemp, GA Tech
- 3/10 – Angela Alexander-Bryant, Clemson
- 3/24 – Mike Mitchell, UPenn
- 3/31 – Abhinav Jha, WashU
- 4/14 – Tamara Alliston

**5. Discussion Items**

## 5.1. Safety Minute (Blanka)

- Implementation of new notice boards → January 2026
  - Acrylic holder you can order directly from EH&S
  - Fill out form online with hazards for your lab
  - Hold off until our building managers set up some things
    - In BMS, hold off until Matt puts up the acrylic boards
    - In NEB, boards will be distributed later (probably through Kelley)
  - In the meantime, don't neglect to update the old one
- For those who use dichloromethane, complete the form by Friday, Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. This chemical is being discontinued except for special circumstances
  - Exposure monitoring must be done by October
  - If you have DCM in your lab but aren't an active user, dispose of it
- Upcoming lab safety events → Friday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> 10:00-11:30am → event in rotunda. Encourage students to attend to try safety glasses
- Plan to phase out physical phones and replace them with an app in the next 6-12 months → there was discussion about safety and privacy issues
- Recent incidents in BME related to sharps. Try to reinforce safety around sharps during lab meetings, including microtome safety.
  - During one of those incidents, students did not know whom to contact. Make sure to review that with your team.

## 5.2. Items Requiring Action – Faculty Votes (Wes) – applications emailed in advance

Several affiliates were marked as “needs improvement” by the exec committee. Sponsors received emails about it. Please contact those affiliates.

- 5.2.1. Siobhan Malany, COP Pharmacodynamics: Affiliate Request w/o Grad Status (Schmidt)  
Unanimous vote to approve
- 5.2.2. Chris Samouce, COM Anesthesiology: Affiliate Request w/o Grad Status (Bolch)  
Unanimous vote to approve
- 5.2.3. Mark Orazem, ChE: Affiliate Seeking Grad Status (Rinaldi-Ramos)  
Unanimous vote to approve
- 5.2.4. Xin Tang, MAE: Affiliate Seeking Grad Status (Sharma)

Approve with one abstain

5.3. Administrative Updates (Natalie)

- Reevaluated competencies for pre- and post-award
  - Majority of post-award will be managed by Natalie, Obed, and Janie (the most experienced individuals)
  - Obed is out until ~mid March working half time. When he returns, we will evaluate the portfolios and assign them for post award.
  - Let Natalie know if there are any communication issues with RAs so she can issue corrections. CC'ing Natalie is insufficient. Message or call Natalie directly if problems and tasks are not being addressed.
  - After grants have been awarded, they will transition to the post-award team
  - Data sharing agreements would go through pre-award
- Graders will be terminated at the end of every semester by default. If you want to keep a grader for the next semester or hire them in your lab, please let Janie and Natalie know so they are not terminated.

5.4. Department and COE Updates and Discussion Items

5.4.1. Faculty Searches and Discussion

- Tenure Track (Mingzhou)
  - 2 faculty interviews already done, 2 happening next month
  - Faculty candidates who have already been interviewed were discussed
- Non-Tenure Track (May)

5.4.2. Grad Recruiting (Lakiesha)

- Make sure to mingle at the Thursday dinner
- Most student-faculty meetings are set. The grad team might send out more calendar invites.
- Reminder on Dean Forrest's message to recruit
- After recruitment: feedback on students will be requested to decide on department recruits
- International students can be considered for the pool

5.4.3. Biomaterials Day and BME STEM Outreach Day (Ed)

- Abstract submission deadline for Biomaterials Day is on this Friday, Feb 21<sup>st</sup>
- We have ~60 volunteers and ~100 registered attendees for the BME STEM Outreach Day. Help spread the word.
- Looking for a few more faculty volunteers to present on their research

5.4.4. Chair Updates (Cherie)

- Reach out to Cherie with any concerns or stresses
- Recommendation to continue spending external and internal funds

5.5. Any Late-Breaking Announcements

**6. Adjourn**