

University Research Committee 2025 – 2026 Annual Report

1. To encourage and promote scholarship, research, and creative endeavors among all faculty members of Oakland University.
2. Committee responsibilities include, in particular, the evaluation of applications for intramural research funds and the allocation of these funds among bargaining unit faculty members.
3. More generally, they include advising and making recommendations to the Chief Research Officer on practices and policies conducive to scholarly activity.

Membership

2023 – 2026 Faculty Appointments

Valence Washington (CAS)

Jia Li, Professor, Engineering (SECS)

2024 – 2027 Faculty Appointments

Betty Toumi (CAS) for Paul Jung (SHS) due to clerical error

Paul Jung (SHS) for the remainder of winter 2026

Melissa Jones (SHS)

2025– 2028 Faculty Appointments

Olga Ehrlich (SON) Co-Chair 2025-26

Lakshmi Raman (CAS) Co-Chair 2025-26

Sang Rhee (CAS)

Seong Cho (SBA)

Dan DelVescovo (SECS)

Hannan Abusbaitan (SON)

Note that Drs. Raman and Ehrlich agreed to extend their service term through the 2025 – 2026 AY. Further, Drs. Raman and Ehrlich agreed to serve as Co-Chairs for the 2025 – 2026 AY and requested re-appointment for the 2025-2028 term, agreeing to serve as Co-Chairs for the 2025-2026 AY.

Ex-Officio Appointments

David Stone (Chief Research Officer)

Laura Beck (Research Office) Coordinator

Meetings and Actions

- URC business for AY 25-26 was conducted synchronously via Zoom or asynchronously via email on agreement from members. Synchronous meetings took place on September 26, 2025; and October 31, 2025.
- The Co-Chairs delivered two synchronous online workshops about the URC grants, awards and application/review processes on September 9, 2025 and September 10, 2025.

Virtual meetings of the full URC were for member introductions and review of committee responsibilities, reviewing grant and award procedures, and discussing strengths or challenges

members encountered when applying those procedures. Email communication was used to developing consensus on award recipients in the event of tied scores, and to discuss potential policy and procedure changes to better achieve the URC's stated goals. Members were active and contributed thoughtful suggestions in these meetings and emails.

The external review process which was approved in 2023 for the Faculty Fellowship grant applications was applied and discussed for possible revision in the 2026-2027 AY. The funding decisions remained within the committee. Additionally, members reviewed, scored and awarded the following awards: Research Excellence, New Investigator, President's Colloquium, and Meadowbrook Hall Conference.

The Co-Chairs met to plan communication and instructions for members to apply when reviewing awards, and to discuss and approve faculty requests for printing costs.

Recommendations and Considerations

Members continued to voice challenges encountered with the Faculty Fellowship external processes and suggestions for how to streamline the processes that involve members, the Research Officer, and experts invited for external review.

2025 – 2026 URC Leadership

During the winter of 2025, Drs. Raman and Ehrlich asked members to nominate themselves to serve as Chair/Co-Chairs for the 2025-2026 AY. Drs. Sang Rhee and Seong Cho volunteered to the Chair the committee for the 2026-27 AY.

Notes

The URC is grateful to Laura Beck, who in her role as Research Officer conducted the bulk of the logistics related to the committee's tasks, and who always did so in a timely and positive manner. Further, the URC is grateful to Sue Willner, who remained available to answer many questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Olga Ehrlich, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, Co-Chair, URC 2025-2026

Lakshmi Raman, Associate Professor, Psychology, College of Arts & Science, Co-Chair, URC 2025-2026

University Research Committee - FY25

	Amount
FY24 Balance Carried Forward	28,417
Budget FY25	380,000
Total Budget for FY25	\$408,417
Faculty Research Fellowship Awards	-324,405
Stipend Fringe Charge	-6,152
External Reviewer Gift, S&H	-4,457
Faculty Research Grant	-34,000
Faculty Books and Reprints	-3,000
Meadow Brook Hall Conference	-3,000
President Colloquium Series, \$1000 funded by the President	0
Faculty Research Excellence Award, \$2500 funded by the Provost	0
New Investigator Research Excellence Award, \$1500 funded by the Provost	0
URC Awards	-\$128,909
Carried Forward to FY26	\$33,403

Statistics	# Applied	# Awarde d	%
Faculty Research Fellowship Awards	54	33	61%
Faculty Research Grant	18	17	94%
Faculty Books and Reprints	6	6	100%
Meadow Brook Hall Conference	3	1	33%
President Colloquium Series	5	1	20%
Faculty Research Excellence Award	5	1	20%
New Investigator Research Excellence Award	5	1	20%
Total	96	60	63%

Faculty Research Fellowship Awards – \$10,000

Applicant Name	Proposal Name
Bartley, Greg—Social Foundations of Education, SOE	Suburban Student Perspectives on English Education, Schooling, and Society
Beetham, Sarah – Mechanical Engineering, SECS	The role of background turbulence in the clustering and settling behavior of volcanic ejecta
Chaudhuri, Malika – School of Business Administration, SBA	The Enemy of your Friend is not your Enemy - Evidence from Firms Switching Partners in Strategic Alliances
Chaudhuri, Ranadeb – Finance, SBA	Polarized Voices: The Influence of Social Media Divergence on Initial Public Offering (IPO) Performance
Chavez, Ferman – Chemistry, CAS	Probing the Mechanism for Iron Dioxygenase Enzymes
Estes, Todd – History, CAS	"Mr. Ames v. Mr. Madison: A History of the House of Representatives During the Washington Presidency and American Founding Viewed through the Confrontations of Its Two Leading Rivals"
Filler, Stephen—Department of Modern Languages and Literature. CAS	Kōdan-bon Storytelling Books and Modern Historical Fiction
Golinski, Mary – Nursing, SON	The Efficacy of Perioperative Intravenous Lidocaine as an Opioid Sparing Adjunct for Patients Undergoing Lower Extremity Orthopedic Trauma Surgery
Golovashchenko, Sergey—Mechanical Engineering, SECS	Key enablers necessary to establish reliable methodology of measuring friction in laboratory environment
Hu, Jie – Computer Science and Engineering. SECS	Balancing Accuracy and Budget: Hybrid Rao-Blackwellized Nonlinear MCMC on General Graphs
Joseph, Rebecca – Department of Modern Languages and Literature, CAS	The Biblical Detective: Daniel, Belshazzar's Feast, and the History of Crime Fiction.
Kinney, Zacharias—Chemistry, CAS	Non-Traditional Intermolecular Hydrogen Bonding as a Route to Storable Active Carbenes: Synthesis and Analysis
Kothari, Pratik—School of Business Administration, SBA	Digital Executives and Corporate Philanthropy: Measuring CEO Motives with AI Agents
Kredell, Brendan—English, CAS	Research and Editorial Work for a Two-Volume Set on Film Festival Studies
Liao, Qunfeng – Accounting, SBA	The real effect of C-suite ethnic diversity: Evidence from corporate resource adjustment
Louie, Wing-Yue – Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, SECS	Community Internet of Robotic Things (IoRT) Collaborations to Support Adults with Disabilities Transitioning to Independent Living
Malik, Ali Ahmad – Industrial and Systems Engineering, SECS	Modular Plug-and-Play Digital Twins for Resilient Smart Manufacturing

McDonald, Fritz—Philosophy, CAS	Kant and the Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence
McDonald, Melissa—Psychology, CAS	Do Self-protection Tools Backfire?
Muller, Teresa—School of Music, Theatre and Dance, SMTD	Ailey Teacher Certification Program: Ailey Horton Technique
Nader, Karim—Philosophy, CAS	Putting the Games Back in Gamification
Naus, James—History, CAS	When Kings Healed: Public Experience and the Royal Touch in Medieval Europe
Parker, Kimmie—Art, Art History and Design, CAS	Building Your Graphic Design Business: A Guide to Creative and Financial Freedom
Raman, Lakshmi—Psychology, CAS	Children and adults' understanding of the role of nutrition, sleep and rest on athletic performance
Tian, Jiannan—Computer Science and Engineering, SECS	Constructing Adaptive GPU Data-Reduction Pipelines Using Compression Primitives
Toulabi, Mohammad—Electrical and Computer Engineering, SECS	Experimental Performance Validation of a Wide-Bandgap Device-Based Synchronous Reluctance Motor Drive System Incorporating a Finite-Element Motor Model
Wang, Wenbo—Mechanical Engineering, SECS	Copper/Amorphous Carbon Multilayers: Preliminary Study to decouple the Wear, Corrosion and Electrical Conductivity Trade-offs
Wardat, Mohammad—Computer Science and Engineering, SECS	Can LLMs Fix Their Own Code? The Rise of Self-Healing Agents
Widmar, Jacob—School of Music, Theatre and Dance, SMTD	Pringle and Finn, A Musical Creation
Williams, Keith—Psychology, CAS	Early-Life Bingeing on Sugar and Fat in Rats: Effect on Impulsivity and Habitual Behavior Directed Toward Alcohol during Adulthood
Wu, Colin—Chemistry, CAS	Impact of BRCA1 variants on DNA repair and cardiomyocyte function
Zhao, Shunan—Economics, SBA	Technological Change from Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence: Implications for Firm Production
Zou, Joey—Mathematics and Statistics, CAS	Mapping Properties of Weighted X-ray Transforms on Spaces with Rotational Symmetry

2025-26 Faculty Research Grant Awards

Applicant Name	Proposal Name
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Abusbaitan, Hanan – Nursing (SON)	Development and Psychometric Validation of an Artificial Intelligence-Intimate Partner Violence Perception Scale among Women in Jordan
Bianchetti, Thomas – Chemistry (CAS)	Peat onset and disturbance from Great Lakes wetlands: Sediment core extraction and analysis to promote sustainable coastal ecosystems
Bohannon Smith, Maria – Art, Art History and Design (CAS)	Anything Analog: Typographic Material Practice as Knowledge Production and Authorship
Dinda, Sumit – Clinical Diagnostic Services (SHS)	Regulation of Estrogen Receptor Alpha (ER α) and BRCA-1 Tumor Suppressor Gene by Tulsi (Holy Basil) in Breast Cancer Cells
Ehrlich, Olga – Nursing (SON)	Michigan Upper Peninsula Physician/Advanced Practice Provider Palliative Care Preparedness: A Survey of Palliative Care Knowledge, Skills, and Needs
Huyghe,Carolynn – Nursing (SON)	Undergraduate Nursing Student’s Perception of an Advanced Practice Nursing Program after the Role as a Standardized Patient
Jiang, Lan – Biological Sciences (CAS)	Mechanistic Investigation of Novel CG 15187 Gene in Tracheal – Tube size regulation
Jonutz, Thayer – Dance (STMD)	Scorched
Kalmanovich-Cohen, Hannah – Business (SBA)	The Micro-Foundations of Inclusion: Testing the Restorative and Emergence Mechanisms of Neuro-Inclusive Remote Work
Popovich, Jennifer – English (Film) CAS	Not There, Short Narrative Film-The Creation of Temporal Dread
Tonsing, Kareen – Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice (CAS)	Exploring Perceptions and Attitudes Toward Intimate Partner Abuse Among University Students
Vonk, Jennifer – Psychology (CAS)	Revisiting the Nature of Empathy in Individuals with Autism
Wang, Yuejian – Physics (CAS)	Probing Pressure-Induced Phase Transitions in Na ₂ TeW ₂ O ₉ Using High-Pressure Single-Crystal X-ray Diffraction

Zhao, Kaiqi– Computer Science and Engineering Department (SECS)	Robust and Compact Perception for Autonomous Driving: Knowledge Distillation for Out-of-Distribution Robustness in Resource-Constrained Autonomous Vehicle Edge Systems
Ziegler-Hill, Virgil – Psychology (CAS)	Psychopathic Personality Traits Across Adulthood

Publication Awards (Laura can you please update the Publication Awards)

Ehrlich, Olga – School of Nursing, SON

A Nursing Faculty Intervention for Teaching Primary Palliative Care in Baccalaureate Nursing Competency-Based Education in *The Palliative Medicine Reports*, \$1,000

McDonald, Gary – Mathematics and Statistics, CAS

On Performance Characteristics of a Nonparametric Subset Selection Procedure with a Small Randomized Block Experimental Design: A Bayesian Mixture Model Approach to Disparity Testing, \$500

McDonald, Gary – Mathematics and Statistics, CAS

Bootstrap Approach to Disparity Testing with Source Uncertainty in the Data in *Health Services and Outcomes Research Methodology*, \$335.53

McDonald, Gary – Mathematics and Statistics, CAS

Selection Rules for Exponential Population Threshold Parameters in *Applied Mathematics*, \$164.47

Tiegs, Scott – Biological Sciences, CAS

Simultaneously Decontaminating Angling Gear for New Zealand Mudsnails (*Potamopyrgus Antipodarum*) and Didymo (*Didymosphenia Geminata*): A Comparison of Two Chemical Approaches in *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*, \$500

Tiegs, Scott – Biological Sciences, CAS

Human Activities Shape Global Patterns in *Science*, \$500

Research Excellence Award

Taku, Kanako – Psychology, CAS \$2,500

New Investigator Research Excellence Award

Doherty, Deborah – Human Movement Science, SOHS, \$1,500

OU Conference Award

Kranack, Michael – Human Development and Child Studies, SEHS

Michigan Severe Behavior Summit: Connecting Research, Training and Practice, \$3,000

President' Colloquium Award

Freed, Joanne– English, Creative Writing and Film, CAS

Not True But Believable: AI and Theories of Fictionality, \$1,000