



## Council for Undergraduate Research and Distinguished Scholarships – AY23-24

### Description

The Council for Undergraduate Research and Distinguished Scholarships (Council) functions as an advisory board for the [Center for Undergraduate Research and Engagement \(CURE\)](#), [Office of Distinguished Scholarships \(ODS\)](#) and [Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program](#). The Council also liaises with the [Undergraduate Research Symposium Steering Committee](#), [DucksRISE Program Stakeholders Committee](#), and Academic Residential Community Council.

The nine allied offices and programs of the [Undergraduate Research and Distinguished Scholarships \(URDS\)](#) unit within the Division of Undergraduate Education and Student Success offer enterprise-wide, comprehensive support to undergraduates and recent alumni exploring and participating in undergraduate research, distinguished scholarships, paid internships, experiential learning, and post-completion destinations. In alignment with the institution's Student Success Framework and Priorities, URDS leads High Impact Practices (HIPs), including Learning Communities, First-Year Seminars, Common Intellectual Experiences, Undergraduate Research, Internships, Community-Based Learning and Capstone Projects. Through equity-centered outreach, advising, mentoring, instruction, funding, and recognition, URDS helps students access and experience the full resources and benefits of a liberal arts and sciences research university.

The Council will engage in strategic planning regarding the undergraduate academic experience from pre-college collaborations, prospective/incoming students, and the first-year experience, to transfer students, community collaborations, capstone experiences, and post-completion support for recent alum. In AY23-24 the Council will focus on six areas:

- 1) **Equity.** Increase awareness, support, and engagement for traditionally underserved students, including first-generation, non-traditional, Pell-eligible and BIPOC students in undergraduate research and distinguished scholarship experiences.
- 2) **Data.** 1) Assess existing institutional and multi-institutional survey data of faculty and student engagement in and outcomes from undergraduate research at UO; 2) explore opportunities for establishing disaggregated demographic data on undergraduate research and distinguished scholarships engagement/participation; 3) evaluate the viability of developing and performing a campus-wide survey investigating faculty experiences, expectations, and capacity regarding undergraduate research (course based and multi-term) in collaboration with [Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program \(UROP\)](#) and [Council on Undergraduate Research](#).
- 3) **Distinguished Scholarships Mentorship.** Develop best practices for distinguished scholarships internal endorsement processes, and overall mentorship/preparation of student applicants (e.g. alumni engagement, mock interviews).
- 4) **Faculty Support.** Explore structures, incentives, and funding to strengthen faculty engagement and mentorship; assess institutional policies and structures that support and inhibit undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activities at UO.
- 5) **Pipeline.** Supporting pre-college and summer bridge collaborations, including the Summer Academy to Inspire Learning (SAIL), Oregon Young Scholars Program (OYSP), UESS summer bridge cohorts (STEM, Business, Connect and Engage).



6) **Access.** Expanding centralized communications and listings for undergraduate research position postings and opportunities (i.e. HandShake platform).

The Council will also help cultivate a campus-wide network of faculty to participate in the Faculty Involvement Opportunities outlined below.

## Scope of Commitment

The Council will convene twice quarterly for one-hour meetings. The estimated scope of commitment is 2-4 hours per term. Council members may also choose to participate in the separate Faculty Involvement Opportunities listed below, but this not an expectation of membership on the Council.

## Decision-Making Authority

The Council is convened by the Assistant Vice Provost for Undergraduate Research and Distinguished Scholarships as is not a statutory committee or council of the University of Oregon Senate. The Council will serve in an advisory capacity to the allied offices and programs of CURE, ODS, and McNair Scholar. Faculty choosing to participate in the additional opportunities outline below will contribute to decision-making around the selection of students for scholarships, endorsements, funding, awards, and admission.

## Faculty Involvement Opportunities

### Office of Distinguished Scholarships (ODS)

- Participate in internal review and endorsement processes
- Serve on limited-duration internal review committees for distinguished scholarships that require institutional endorsements (e.g. Churchill, Goldwater, Marshall, Mitchell, Rhodes, and Truman) to evaluate applications and select endorsees
- Advise distinguished scholarship endorsees
- Participate in mock interviews for distinguished scholarships finalists

### Center for Undergraduate Research and Engagement (CURE)

- Review applications for First-Year Research Experience (FYRE) Fellowships
- Review applications for Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF)
- Review nominations for Faculty Mentor Recognition Awards

### Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program

- Serve on admissions committee to review applications, interview candidates, and make selections
- Serve as a guest speaker/discussion facilitator at McNair Scholars seminar and/or workshops on topics such as conducting research, applying to graduate school, and pursuing a PhD, career pathways
- Serve as a McNair Scholars mentor and recruit faculty to join McNair Scholars Faculty Mentor Pool
- “Coffee and Chat” – Meet with McNair Scholars for informal conversations

### Undergraduate Research Symposium

- Serve as judges for Symposium presenter awards
- Serve as moderators for presentation sessions

*Please see “URDS AY23-24 Faculty Involvement Opportunities” summary for full details.*



## Membership

Kevin Hatfield, Assistant Vice Provost for Undergraduate Research and Distinguished Scholarships, UESS  
– Council Co-Chair

Lanch McCormick, Director of Student Engagement, Undergraduate Research and Distinguished  
Scholarships – Council Co-Chair

Jennifer Ablow, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology

Jacy Bartlett, Program Coordinator, Undergraduate Research and Distinguished Scholarships

Nancy Cunningham, Director, Branch Libraries, UO Libraries

Christabelle Dragoo, Director, Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program

Nicole Dudukovic, Senior Instructor, Neuroscience Major Director, Clark Honors College, Neuroscience,  
Psychology

Michelle Holdway, Associate Director for Scholarships, Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships

Jennifer O’Neal, Assistant Professor, Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies; Native American Studies: History

CJ Pascoe, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology

Elizabeth Raisanen, Assistant Dean of Advising and Strategic Partnerships; Instructor of Literature, Clark Honors  
College

Karl Reasoner, Senior Program Manager, Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP)

Luis Ruiz, Assistant Director, Analytics and Student Success, Division of Global Engagement

Maria Schweer-Collins, Research Assistant Professor, Prevention Science Institute, College of Education.

John Seely, Professor, Special Education and Clinical Services, College of Education

Amy Sibul, Internships & Career Readiness Director, Department of Human Physiology

Larry Ulibarri, Senior Instructor I, Department of Anthropology

Corbett Upton, Senior Instructor I, Department of English

Akiko Walley, Maude Kearns Associate Professor of Japanese Art, Department of History of Art &  
Architecture

Jessica Winders, Assistant Director, Academic Residential and Research Initiatives, University Housing/SSEM