

## **Charter**

### **UAB Council of Center Directors (COCD)**

#### **I. Purpose**

The UAB Council of Center Directors (COCD) is charged with providing advice and recommendations on research related matters to the Vice President for Research (executive sponsor) and staff within the UAB Office of Research, as well as facilitating interactions and interdisciplinary collaborations among the University Wide Interdisciplinary Research Centers (UWIRCs), and across the University.

#### **II. Background**

The UAB UWIRC program was launched in 1997. In 2007, several UWIRC Directors identified a need for a mechanism to enhance collaboration between the centers and for an advisory body composed of center leadership to contribute to the development of interdisciplinary research initiatives among the various units on campus. This need was fulfilled by the formation of the Council of Center Directors, which serves as a resource to investigators and administrators across campus and helps the university achieve its research mission of scholarship, discovery, and innovation.

#### **III. COCD Responsibilities**

The COCD will provide input to the Vice President for Research on the UWIRC program and associated activities. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Cultivation and leadership of interdisciplinary research and training opportunities for researchers and collaborators across schools and units at UAB;
- Providing input on strategies for enhanced engagement of the university research community for funding opportunities which require formation of interdisciplinary research teams, or which rely upon the existing UWIRC structure for enhanced competitiveness;
- Providing input concerning research infrastructure;
- Suggesting speakers and presenters for Council meetings and facilitating invitations to those guests;
- Active participation in the Marchase Annual Symposium, including nomination of potential speakers, nomination and voting on the Marchase Award recipient, and attendance at the symposium.
- Participation on working groups and task forces that identify and advance the priorities and goals of the UAB UWIRC program.
- Attendance at and participation in monthly COCD meetings. Wherever the Center Director is not available, a Co-Director or Associate Director faculty member should attend in their place.

**IV. COCD Membership**

The membership of the COCD is comprised of the Directors of UWIRCs and Pilot Programs. UWIRC and Pilot Program Directors are appointed to their roles by the Vice President for Research in collaboration with applicable school, department and division leadership.

**V. COCD Leadership**

The COCD shall be convened by the Vice President for Research and will be led by a Chair and Chair-Elect. Chair and Chair-Elect elections shall be carried out as follows:

- Chair-Elect candidates are identified through an annual nomination process which solicits nominations from existing UWIRC directors and subsequent voting on nominees by Center Directors. Pilot Program directors are not eligible to serve as Chair-Elect or Chair.
- Each UWIRC and Pilot Program has one (1) vote each.
- The top three candidates will be provided by name to the Vice President of Research in an unranked order for selection of the Chair-Elect.
- To facilitate new leadership of the COCD in the subsequent calendar year, this process will be held in November of each year. The election process will be managed by the Office of Research.
- Chairs serve a one-year term. Chair-elect serves two consecutive years (first year as the Chair-Elect and second year as COCD Chair).

**VI. Meetings**

Monthly meetings of the COCD will be convened by the Vice President for Research. The agenda will be developed in collaboration with the Vice President for Research, Senior Associate Vice President for Research, the COCD and Council of Center Administrators Chair and the Chair-Elect. Meeting support and facilitation will be provided by staff in the Office of Research.



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Christopher S. Brown, PhD  
Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs Vice President for Research