Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Philosophy: Ken McAllister & John Pollard
Experiences: Abra McAndrew & Michael Staten
Students: John Ehiri & Lucinda (Cindy) Rankin
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion: Jennifer Cubeta & Amy Kimme Hea
Faculty: Rebecca Gomez & Ellen McMahon
Organization: Kian Alavy & John Koshel

Steering Committee

Kevin Bontine  Liesl Folks
Roberta Diaz Brinton  Greg Heileman
Gail Burd  Robert C. Robbins
Elizabeth (Betsy) Cantwell  Andrea Romero
Ravneet Chadha  Kimberly Sierra-Cajas
Elliott Cheu  Helena Zikov
Comprised of faculty, staff, and students, the Undergraduate Research Task Force aims to make world-class research a defining characteristic of the undergraduate experience at the University of Arizona.

Process & Subcommittees
Given the enormity of the academic and research enterprises, as well as the large number of existing efforts related to undergraduate research at the University of Arizona, the work of the task force is partitioned into six different dimensions. These dimensions are broad standards for excellence in the critical components of undergraduate research, comprising an aspirational model that provides general guidelines for an intentional design of an institutional undergraduate research framework. The process is intended to engage the entire campus in honest and meaningful discussions about undergraduate research within the dimension guideposts.

Undergraduate research is broadly interpreted to include the research endeavors of all faculty in all colleges at UArizona.

Emergent Priorities

1. DEFINE Undergraduate Research and Undergraduate Research Experience
2. ASSESS and EVALUATE Undergraduate Research
3. CENTRALIZE Certain Undergraduate Research Functions
4. INTEGRATE Undergraduate Research INTO the CURRICULUM
5. Purposefully FUND and REWARD Undergraduate Research

Timeline

**DISCOVERY**
- Announcement of task force; collection of information from peer institutions; kickoff event; formation of subcommittees; current practices inventory; faculty survey; student survey.

**PLANNING**
- Collection of subcommittee reports; development of a comprehensive report synthesizing subcommittee findings.

**IMPLEMENTATION**
- Develop specific infrastructure and funding pathways; hire program coordinator / interim director; establish Center for Undergraduate Research; hire permanent center director.

Implementation


May 2023: Cantwell and Folks email to campus community clearly articulating vision and path forward.

June 13, 2023: Associate Deans of Research Briefing.

Summer 2023: Hire program coordinator or interim faculty director, continue URTF work, prepare for center director search, initiate fundraising conversations with UA Foundation.

Fall 2023: Continue URTF work, begin center director search, Strategic Plan in Action event, campus visit by Bethany Usher – President, Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR).

Spring 2024: Establish Center for Undergraduate Research, complete URTF work to provide incoming center director with roadmap and description of existing UArizona assets, resources, and programs.

Summer/Fall 2024: Broadly publicize Center for Undergraduate Research.