

Committee on Scientific Research and Affairs (Scientific Council)

Annual Faculty Council Report



May 1, 2025

What Is Our Role?

Duties

- **Advise** the **Executive Council, Faculty Council, and Student Government Alliance** on “*scientific environment*”
- **Reports to Executive Council, Faculty Council**
- **Chancellor, Provost, Deans, and EVC for Research can consult** with SC on “*research-related matters*” and “*significant issues*”
- **Advise** and receive reports from Committees:
 - **Laboratory Safety**
 - **Radiation Safety**
 - **Protection of Human Subjects in Research**
 - **IACUC**

Advising and reporting

- **Provide faculty input** for considering and evaluating “*activities related to research*”
- **Make recommendations** to the Chancellor, Provost, Deans, and EVC for Research about funding priorities
- **Serve** as *ad hoc* review panel for intramural grants
 - report to Chancellor, Provost, Deans, and EVC for Research
- **Review** the performance of Research Cores (subsidized)
- **Recommend** level of support for Research Cores

Doc. T03-035
Passed by the BoT 8/6/2003
Amended 8/23/2006
Amended 9/18/2013

GOVERNANCE DOCUMENT
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS WORCESTER

-806.1-

Who Are We?



- Meet monthly
- **OUTSTANDING** support by Dawn Fontaine

2025-2026 Schedule – each subsidized core reviewed every 3 years

Date	Department	Name
17-Sep-25	CSRA Introductions and Mission	Javier Irazoqui
15-Oct-25	Dean of the T.H. Chan School of Medicine	Terry Flotte
19-Nov-25	Human Resources	Patrick Gallagher
17-Dec-25	SCOPE core review	Gowthaman Uthaman
21-Jan-26	Chief Research Computing Officer	Bill Barnett
	CIO, Information Technology	Lee Leiber
18-Feb-26	EH&S	Ken Lebetkin
18-Mar-26	MD/PhD Program	Read Pukkila-Worley
	Director, Biomedical Sciences Umbrella Pathway	Neal Silverman
	Library	Sally Gore
15-Apr-26	Flow Cytometry core review (postponed)	Darren Lee
20-May-26	IACUC	Casey Moran
	IBC	Tom Greenough
17-Jun-26	Mass Spec. core review	TBD

Regular Attendees

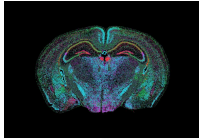
- Representatives from all academic departments
- Dr. Kate Fitzgerald (RAC)
- Dr. Katherine Luzuriaga/Dr. Nate Hafer (CCTS)
- Dr. Bill Barnett (CRCO)
- Dr. Emily Green (OFA)
- Regular Guests:
 - Library
 - EH&S
 - IACUC
 - IBC
 - IRB
 - IT
 - OFA
 - HR

Research Cores: Philosophy

- Research Cores are a strategic investment by the Institution.
- The purpose of this investment is to drive scientific innovation and discovery, and in the process increase UMass Chan's impact, reputation, and competitiveness.
- As a Core matures, it may move from a deficit operation to sustainability, and such progress requires flexibility and financial support.
- The Institution benefits from knowing the return on investment in terms of grants and contracts that stem from its strategic investment in Cores.

Core Review – 2025-2026

SCOPE



- Essential imaging core:** 3,000 sq ft facility delivering advanced microscopy and spatial biology solutions, plus experimental design and data-analysis support.
- High utilization (2025):** 21 microscopes and 5 spatial biology platforms serving 142 internal users (72 labs) and 7 external users.
- Generally strong satisfaction:** High ratings for data quality/training/staff, but concerns about turnaround time, troubleshooting capacity, and occasional service friction – related to staffing.
- Major growth since 2021:** Staffing expanded (1→3), revenue grew (\$50K→\$450K), spatial biology now ~50% of revenue, and instruments/infrastructure/software support increased.
- Key risks + fixes:** FY2026 sustainability pressures (funding/usage decline, unfunded staff costs, service contracts, instrument repair, admin burden).
- Recommended;** Enabling overhead for internal core use, encouraging core use over purchases, outreach, stable funded positions, better impact tracking, and operational efficiencies.



Executive summaries and end-of-year reports are submitted to Dr. Kate Fitzgerald and Dean Flotte.

Core Review – Upcoming this year

Flow Cytometry (postponed
due to unforeseen events)



Mass Spectrometry



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

Core Facilities: Trends (prior to constraints in federal funding)

Core facility strengths

- Remarkable growth in external user base and in services over the last few years – under threat
- State-of-the art equipment to serve our research enterprise
- Highly skilled and knowledgeable Core Directors
- Voucher Program was key to bringing in external companies and collaborators
- Having the resources on campus has turned into new grants and collaborations
- Progress in reducing paperwork for core directors
- Progress in career paths for core directors

Questions under consideration

- Balance financial sustainability with capital investments in new technologies to stay competitive
- Improve staff recruitment and retention
- Targeting of limited resources for strategic investment

We ask of You

Know your Scientific Council Rep

- They are the conduits of information from the Departments to the Scientific Council, and vice versa

Partner with us

- Send us your opinions, needs, and questions about the cores and any other aspect of the Research Enterprise

Thank you for your attention



<https://www.umassmed.edu/csra/>

With thanks to Kate Fitzgerald, Jared Smith (OOR), and
Dawn Fontaine