RUTGERS

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September 16, 2024

Vicki L. Hewitt, EdD
University Senate
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
335 George Street, Suite 1250
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Dear Dr. Hewitt,

I am writing in follow-up to my January 2023 response to the Senate regarding the recommendations put forth in Senate report S-2110: Research Information Systems.

As I reported to you last year, I sent the Senate's recommendations to the Office for Research and University Libraries, which formed a task force chaired by Senior Vice President Michael Zwick and Vice President and University Librarian Consuella Askew.

I am attaching the task force report.

My thanks to the Senate and the Research and Graduate & Professional Education Committee members for their recommendations.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Holloway

c: Michael Zwick, Senior Vice President for Research
        Consuella Askew, Vice President for University Libraries and University Librarian
        Lucille Foster, Chair, University Senate

Response to University Senate Charge
S-2110: Research Information Systems

Research and Graduate & Professional Education Committee Members (RGPEC)

September 6, 2024

Introduction
In response to the University Senate charge S-2110, the Office for Research and the Rutgers University Libraries formed a temporary task force chaired by Dr. Michael Zwick, Rutgers Senior Vice President for Research, and Consuella Askew, Vice President for University Libraries and University Librarian.

The task force met to review the current Research Information Systems (RISs) and make a recommendation on a universitywide RIS.

Taskforce Membership
Michael E. Zwick (Office for Research), Co-chair
Consuella Askew (Rutgers University Libraries), Co-chair
Detlev Boison (Senate RPGEC Committee Member)
Todd Slawsky (Office for Research)
Jeffrey Carroll (Rutgers University Libraries)
Chris Perkins (Office for Research)
Joseph Deodato (Rutgers University Libraries)
Jose Roman (Office for Research)
Jonathan Torres (Rutgers University Libraries)
Mei Ling Lo (Rutgers University Libraries)
Eduardo Molina (Institutional Research and Academic Planning)

Research Information System Recommendation
The university currently employs two RISs for different purposes: Esploro and Research with Rutgers. Both have advantages and limitations. The summary produced for these two RISs is attached.

In collaboration with the RGPEC, the task force has decided to adopt Research with Rutgers for several reasons:

1. Research with Rutgers is a collaboration with the Commission on Science Innovation and Technology, and the State of New Jersey funds licenses for STEM faculty.
2. Research with Rutgers is part of Research with New Jersey, a collaboration with other New Jersey Institutions, including Rowan University, Princeton University, NJIT, and Montclair State University.
3. Research with Rutgers meets most criteria needed to satisfy Senate recommendations 1 and 2.
4. Research with Rutgers includes key information such as
   a. Core facilities
   b. Searchable researcher database with expertise and equipment.
   c. Information about grant awards to RU researchers

      d. Information about publications from RU researchers
      e. Integration with RU data in public databases (e.g. PubMed, ORCID)

The Office for Research also manages social media to extend the reach of Rutgers Research and Rutgers Innovation.

The Office for Research is also pursuing other initiatives with its central and Chancellor-led unit counterparts, including a research data task force. This task force will develop policies and best practices for handling and storing research data.

Next Steps
To expand Research with Rutgers to all tenured, tenure track, and non-tenure track full-time faculty, the Office for Research is asking for funding to support the license cost and 2 full-time professional staff to provide training and support for faculty. While basic support is currently offered for STEM faculty, adding additional faculty and taking full advantage of Research with Rutgers will require additional financial support.

The Office for Research will make this proposal as part of their FY 26 budget request, which, if approved, will begin on July 1, 2025.