

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021**  
**RESEARCH, INNOVATION & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Lewis Von Thae  
Erin P. Hoeflinger  
Alexander R. Fischer  
Hiroyuki Fujita  
Reginald A. Wilkinson  
Carly G. Sobol  
Gary R. Heminger (*ex officio*)

Location: Public Session available via Livestream

1:30-3:00pm

**Public Session**

*ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION*

1. Committee Chair's Remarks – Mr. Lou Von Thae 1:30-1:35pm
2. Update on President's Research Excellence Program – Dr. Grace Wang,  
Dr. Dorota Grejner-Brzezinska 1:35-1:50pm
3. Research and Innovation Highlights for Fiscal Year 2021 – Dr. Grace Wang 1:50-2:10pm

*ITEMS FOR ACTION*

4. Approval of May 2021 Committee Meeting Minutes – Mr. Lou Von Thae 2:10-2:15pm

**Executive Session**

2:15-3:00pm



**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN**

*May 19, 2021 – Research, Innovation & Strategic Partnerships Committee*

**Members Present:**

Lewis Von Thaeer  
Erin P. Hoeflinger  
Cheryl L. Krueger

Alexander R. Fischer  
Hiroyuki Fujita  
Reginald A. Wilkinson

Anand Shah  
Gary R. Heminger (ex officio)

**Members Absent:**

N/A

**PUBLIC SESSION**

The Research, Innovation & Strategic Partnerships Committee of The Ohio State University Board of Trustees convened on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, in person in Pfahl Hall on the Columbus campus and virtually over Zoom. Committee Chair Lewis Von Thaeer called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

***Items for Discussion***

1. Committee Chair’s Remarks: Mr. Von Thaeer started by thanking university leadership and the committee members for their efforts to help the new Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships Committee hit the ground running. He also acknowledged Cheryl Krueger and Anand Shah for their service on this new committee and wished them well as their trustee terms end.
2. Overview and Plan for Interdisciplinary Research Facility: Dr. Grace Wang, EVP for the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge, and Dr. Peter Mohler, Interim VP for Research, shared an overview of the plan for the Interdisciplinary Research Facility (IRF), which will be the main building in Phase 1 of the university’s Innovation District. The goal for the Innovation District is to develop it into a technology hub and talent magnet, and the approach is to create a high-density area of knowledge, technology, ideas and talent – from research talent to entrepreneurial talent – so that people can meet and partner on convergent research ideas, commercialize technologies, form start-up companies and, ultimately, transform our region and drive economic growth. The guiding principles for the Innovation District focus on aligning with the university’s land-grant mission; building on our research strengths; enabling sustainable partnerships; being forward-thinking and accountable; and developing, growing and attracting talent.

The IRF will catalyze convergent research in life sciences and biotechnology while providing new opportunities for the community and industry to engage Ohio State researchers. It will represent one of the most forward-thinking, innovative and collaborative buildings in the country. The lab spaces were specifically designed by scientists to create a living laboratory. Programming for the building has been a three-year process that involved internal and external academic and non-academic partners with a primary goal for the building to be able to evolve rapidly with the ever-changing scientific landscape.

The IRF will be a 305,000-square-foot facility – large enough to hold 18 convergent neighborhoods housing 140 PIs and 10 new core labs – with the ability to support \$100 million in new annual extramural funding capacity. It is scheduled to open in May 2023. To date, \$51.5 million has been raised with additional commitments in the works.



**Items for Action**

3. Approval of February 2021 Committee Meeting Minutes: No changes were requested to the February 24, 2021, meeting minutes; therefore, a formal vote was not required, and the minutes were considered approved.
4. Resolution No. 2021-113, Approval of the Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships Committee Charter:

Synopsis: Approval of the Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships Committee charter is proposed.

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees may adopt individual committee charters, consistent with committee descriptions, that set forth further information and definition regarding the committee's charge, committee composition, or the delegated authority and responsibilities of each committee; and

WHEREAS the delineation and description of each committee function will enable the board to be more effective in the execution of its duties and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees created its Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships Committee effective February 25, 2021; and

WHEREAS section 3335-1-02(C)(1)(f) of the *Bylaws of The Ohio State University Board of Trustees* sets forth the description of the Board of Trustees' Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships Committee; and

WHEREAS the Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships Committee has developed a proposed charter, consistent with that description, that reflects its status as a standing committee of the Board of Trustees, and that charter has been fully reviewed by the committee; and

WHEREAS the Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships Committee shall be governed by the rules set forth in this Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships Committee charter:

NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees hereby approves the attached Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships Committee charter.

(See Appendix X for background information, page XX)

5. Resolution No. 2021-114, Expression of Appreciation: Honda-Ohio State Partnership

WHEREAS on October 12, 2000, Honda and The Ohio State University formalized the Honda-Ohio State Partnership by signing a memorandum of understanding; and

WHEREAS in 2015, Honda and Ohio State established a new memorandum of understanding reaffirming the partnership, creating a new joint leadership structure with dedicated co-directors for the partnership, and committing to the development of a new innovative business model for the Transportation Research Center to better support the future needs of Honda, Ohio State and the mobility industry; and



WHEREAS on April 1, 2021, Honda and Ohio State signed a new memorandum of understanding to continue advancing the Honda-Ohio State Partnership by building the vision for a world class partnership, expanding upon the collaborative relationship between Honda and Ohio State, and creating a future-looking strategic vision for this partnership; and

WHEREAS over the past two decades, this collaboration has brought numerous benefits to both institutions and has helped develop and breed innovation; and

WHEREAS the Honda-Ohio State Partnership is an example of how Ohio's industries, and specifically Honda, collaborate with Ohio State to build a better and brighter future; and

WHEREAS this partnership has created educational opportunities for Ohio State students and Honda associates, enabling them to learn and grow to prepare for widespread domestic and global advancement of the mobility industry:

NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees hereby expresses its appreciation for and recognizes the 20th anniversary of the Honda-Ohio State Partnership and celebrates Honda's renewed commitment to Ohio State for the future.

(See Appendix X for background information, page XX)

**Action:** Upon the motion of Mr. Von Thaer, seconded by Mrs. Hoeflinger, the committee adopted the foregoing motions by unanimous voice vote with the following members present and voting: Mr. Von Thaer, Mrs. Hoeflinger, Ms. Krueger, Mr. Fischer, Dr. Fujita, Dr. Wilkinson, Mr. Shah and Mr. Heminger.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was moved by Mr. Von Thaer, and seconded by Ms. Krueger, that the committee recess into executive session to consider business-sensitive trade secrets required to be kept confidential by federal and state statutes.

A roll call vote was taken, and the committee voted to go into executive session with the following members present and voting: Mr. Von Thaer, Mrs. Hoeflinger, Ms. Krueger, Mr. Fischer, Dr. Fujita, Dr. Wilkinson, Mr. Shah and Mr. Heminger.

The committee entered executive session at 2:06 p.m. and the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.