

# Research Data Governance Steering Committee – Charge Document

## Vision:

Bridging the gap from data to decisions.

## Mission:

To empower the university's decision-making through the responsible use of trustworthy, unified, and accessible data.

## Purpose

To provide governance and oversight for research-related data, including data generated through faculty scholarly activity, grants and contracts, and the use of institutional data for generalized research purposes, ensuring compliance with federal regulations, sponsor requirements, and institutional policies while promoting the secure, ethical, and effective use of research data in support of the university's research mission.

## Scope

- Research data created for or generated from proposals, publications, faculty scholarly activity, and sponsored projects.
- Compliance with regulatory frameworks, including but not limited to regulations governing human subjects, research security and personally identifiable information.
- Data management and sharing plans (DMSPs) and open science mandates.
- Establish digital data retention policies that are in compliance with internal policies and external agency requirements.

## Responsibilities

- Research Data Domain Governance - Provide governance and oversight for research-related data, including data generated through faculty scholarly pursuits, grants and contracts, and institutional data used for generalized research purposes. Establish scope, decision authority, and accountability for research data assets.

- Research Data Policy, Standards, and Ethics - Define, approve, and maintain policies governing research data sharing, storage, retention, security, classification, and ethical use. Promote transparency, reproducibility, and responsible stewardship of research data while respecting disciplinary norms and institutional obligations.
- Compliance and Sponsor Alignment - Define policies and governance practices that ensure institutional research data management aligns with sponsor requirements and federal, state, and institutional regulations (e.g., human subjects, research security and personally identifiable information, student information, export controls). Provide interpretation and escalation for data-related compliance issues.
- Data Management and Sharing Planning and Researcher Support - Support researchers in the development, maintenance, and execution of data management and sharing plans (DMSPs). Ensure governance oversight of DMSP practices, including alignment with sponsor expectations, open science mandates, and institutional capabilities.
- Secure Infrastructure and Cross-Functional Coordination - Liaise with research administration, libraries, and IT to ensure secure, scalable, and compliant infrastructure for research data storage, access, sharing, and preservation throughout the research data lifecycle.
- Research Data Lifecycle and Access Governance - Oversee the full lifecycle of research data—from creation and active use through publication, sharing, preservation, and disposition. Govern access to research data, including secondary use of institutional data for research, data use agreements, and restricted or sensitive datasets.
- Issue Resolution, Risk Management, and Accountability - Serve as the escalation body for unresolved research data governance, compliance, or risk issues. Identify and mitigate institutional risks related to research data and ensure accountability for adherence to approved policies and standards.

## Membership

- Sr. Assoc Dean Res/Assoc VP Res & Econ Dev (*Dr. Colin Combs - Chair*)
- AVP/CIO
- Chief Data Officer
- UIT Security Officer
- Chester Fritz Library Digital Initiatives Librarian
- SMHS Clinical Campus Librarian
- Director Research and Sponsored Program Development
- Human Resources Compensation Manager
- EERC Assistant Director for Cloud Security

- Director of Resource Planning & Allocation
- SMHS Senior Research Analyst
- UIT Systems Administrator
- Research Representative(s)

## Reporting

Reports to the Data Governance Council and Institutional Sponsors.

Approved by: Data Governance Council (2/19/26)