

RCC Quarterly Meeting Highlights

New Resources, Survey Findings, and COI Updates

RESEARCH COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

APRIL 24, 2026

The Research Compliance Committee (RCC) held its April quarterly meeting with **101 attendees** from across UNC Research. The session covered new subcommittee deliverables, early insights from a campus-wide survey, and key updates to the Conflict of Interest (COI) program.

Jeanne Lovmo opened with remarks on the RCC's role in strengthening coordination, while Quinton Johnson recognized progress since the committee's launch in July 2025 and acknowledged the support of Vice Chancellor Penny Gordon-Larsen and Senior Associate Vice Chancellor Andy Johns who attended the meeting.

101 Attendees

Strong campus-wide participation across UNC Research units

4 RCC Subcommittees

Each showcased newly developed tools and resources for researchers

4 Survey Themes

Key insights from the 2026 Research Insights Survey now guiding priorities

1 COI Update

Streamlined to an annual disclosure model aligned with NIH thresholds

Subcommittee Link Project Showcase

A central highlight of the meeting was presentations from each RCC link subcommittee, featuring newly developed tools and resources to support the research community.

Learning Link

Introduced a new **onboarding webpage** for researchers and research administrators — featuring a welcome video, first-month action steps, and curated resources to help new employees get started quickly.

[Getting Started for Researchers](#)

Process Improvement Link

Presented the **Process Improvement Priority Scoring Tool** to help teams prioritize which processes to improve, based on factors like burden, risk, and feasibility.

[Access the Prioritization Tool](#)

Risk Management Link

Shared an **International Research Risk Management Roadmap** to guide researchers in identifying and addressing international compliance risks across the research lifecycle. The roadmap will be available as a web-based resource. *Coming Soon!*

Policy Link

Unveiled the **Research Policy Hub** — a centralized site to make policies easier to locate, understand, and apply.

[Research Policy Hub](#)

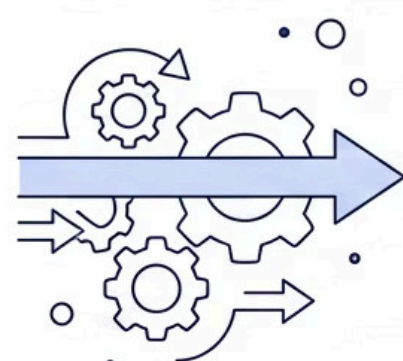
Also introduced two new engagement efforts:

- **Research Policy in Motion** — Highlights policy updates and what they mean in practice, with space for Q&A. The next session, *"What's New and What It Means for You,"* will be held at the NRP Research Conference on **May 20, 10:30–11:30 AM**, presented by Quinton Johnson & Jeanne Lovmo.
- **Policy Listening Sessions** — Small, cross-role groups that share experiences and give feedback on research policy requirements. Units can host their own using the facilitation toolkit.

[Listening Session Facilitation Toolkit](#)

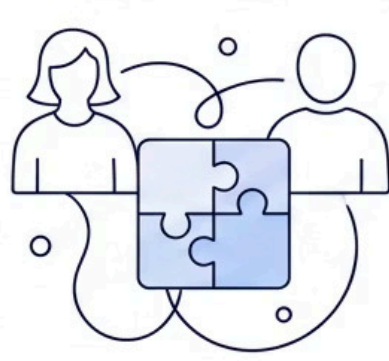
2026 Research Insights Survey: Early Findings

Jeanne Lovmo shared early findings from the **2026 Research Insights Survey**, which gathered input from hundreds of respondents across campus. Four consistent themes emerged, pointing to clear areas of opportunity that will inform future RCC priorities.



Simplifying Processes

Reduce administrative burden and streamline workflows.



Improving Coordination

Better alignment across units and offices.

Expanding Access to Resources

Make tools and guidance more discoverable.



Strengthening Training

Build capacity for new and existing staff.



COI Program Update

What's Changing

Raha Khademi outlined a streamlined approach to the Conflict of Interest program, shifting to an annual disclosure model for anyone involved in the design, conduct, or reporting of research.

- Submit disclosures annually and before applying for funded research, including renewals and revisions
- Update disclosures within 30 days of any change in interests
- Reviews will focus on higher-risk interests, including equity, intellectual property, and compensation above \$5,000
- Thresholds now align more closely with NIH standards
- COI training is built into the annual disclosure process

Who Must Disclose?

During the open discussion, attendees raised questions about disclosure requirements. The guidance is clear: **anyone with responsibility for the design, conduct, or reporting of research** may be required to submit an annual disclosure.

When in doubt about whether you need to disclose, consult your unit's research compliance contact or the COI program office. coi@unc.edu

What's Next for the RCC

Quinton Johnson outlined the next phase of work. Subcommittees will continue reviewing survey results over the summer and identifying focus areas for future projects — shaping the next project cycle in the fall. Broader participation from the research community is strongly encouraged.

Summer 2026

Subcommittees review survey results and identify focus areas for future projects

July 31, 2026

Next RCC Quarterly Meeting

Fall 2026

Next project cycle launches based on subcommittee findings and community input

October 30, 2026

Following RCC Quarterly Meeting

Closing remarks recognized the contributions of presenters, subcommittee members, and all 101 participants who engaged in this productive quarterly session.

Stay involved — your input shapes the future of research compliance at UNC.