

May 2015

Academic Research Council

May 6- 7, 2015 Meeting Summary



Fifth Annual Meeting of the Academic Research Council

On May 6th and 7th, 2015, CFPB's Office of Research convened the Academic Research Council for its fifth annual meeting at 1275 First Street NE, in Washington, D.C.

Council Members Present

Raphael Bostic

John Campbell

Justine Hastings

Christine Jolls

David Laibson

Antoinette Schoar

CFPB Staff Present

Chris Carroll

Ron Borzekowski

David Silberman

Office of Research Staff

Day 1: May 6, 2015

Breakfast Session: Ethics and FOIA Training

**Mark Vugrinovich, Senior Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Analyst & FOIA Public Liaison
Margaret Plank, Senior Counsel**

Mr. Vugrinovich from the FOIA office gave a presentation on the Freedom of Information Act and standard records management practices for advisory board members. Ms. Plank from the Bureau's Ethics Office reviewed ethics rules Council members are subject to in their advisory role with the Bureau.

Welcome and Meeting Overview

Chris Carroll, Assistant Director and Chief Economist, Office of Research

Chris Carroll, Assistant Director and Chief Economist for the Office of Research, called the meeting to order, welcomed the Council members, and reviewed the day's agenda.

Subcommittee on Dynamics of Household Balance Sheets

**Ron Borzekowski, Deputy Assistant Director, Office of Research
Kenneth Brevoort, Section Chief, Office of Research, Credit Information Policy**

Ron Borzekowski presented an overview of the research conducted by the Office and introduced the focus areas currently under development: research examining the dynamics of household balance sheets and research to better understand consumer disclosures.

Kenneth Brevoort then presented an overview of the first area: the dynamics of household balance sheets. He described the research questions underlying the agenda and the initiatives that the Office was undertaking to build the necessary resources to accomplish these goals. Mr. Brevoort described one of the key resources, the consumer credit panel, and the technology the Bureau had developed to match surveys to administrative data. Council members provided positive feedback on the initiative and suggested other data resources to aid in this effort along with suggestions for minimizing any privacy risks. They also discussed the trade-offs between broad coverage and more narrow coverage focused on particular populations.

Lunch Session

Academic Research Council members met as a whole for the subcommittee sessions during a working lunch to discuss a variety of different consumer finance topics in the academic literature.

Subcommittee on Disclosure

Julian Jamison, Section Chief, Office of Research, Decision Making and Behavioral Studies
Jesse Leary, Section Chief, Consumer and Household Research and Policy

Julian Jamison presented the second research area aimed at understanding mandatory disclosure. He presented the Office's initial framework highlighting three areas of focus: efficacy, measurement and market effects. Mr. Jamison then discussed the various methodologies the Office could use to address the questions. Council members were supportive of the approach discussed the relative merits of prioritizing work within this area.

Information Exchange

Management in the Office of Research shared recent research initiatives with Council members. These included discussions of field trials that were underway with other Offices and with Project Catalyst; the recently published methodology to use publicly available information to proxy for unidentified race and ethnicity; work in the Office to identify and to improve the measurement of the benefits of consumer finance regulation; empirical analyses of the prevalence of overdraft at certain institutions; the role of medical debt in credit scoring models; and plans to develop tools for computational work in household finance. Council members were appreciative of the presentations and the overview of the diverse work of the Office. Individual Council members asked questions and commented on the research methodologies underlying this work.

Administrative Session

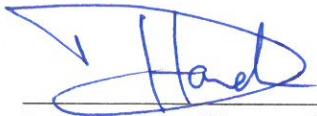
The Council shared feedback on the day's sessions with senior Office of Research staff. They also discussed the challenges in building personnel resources within the Office of Research.

Day 2: May 20, 2016

Public Session

In this open to the public session, CFPB Director, Richard Cordray offered opening remarks. After these remarks, the ARC members gave presentations about trends in consumer finance research and discussed these presentations. Then Chris Carroll, Chief Economist and Assistant Director of the Office of Research, led a presentation and discussion about consumer financial protection agencies in other countries. Lastly, CFPB Staff presented short overviews of recent publications by the CFPB's Office of Research.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.



Delicia Reynolds Hand
Staff Director, Advisory Board and Councils Office
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau