Behrend Research Committee End of the Year Report

Name of committee: Research Committee

Chair of committee: Russ Hall (HSS)

Committee members: Jay Amicangelo (SCI), Varun Gupta (BUS), Hyunwoo Lim (BUS),

Heather Lum (HSS-Spring semester), Janet Neigh (HSS-Fall semester), Mohammad Rasouli

(ENG), Ihab Ragai (ENG), Darren Williams (SCI), Ivor Knight (ex-officio)

Approximate meeting dates/ number of times met: 4

Charges:

- **Charge 1 (standing charge):** Review sabbatical leave applications and

  recommend individuals for sabbatical.

- **Progress with charge:** The committee reviewed seven sabbatical leave

  applications and provided the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies with

  our recommendations.

- **Was the charge completed or not?** Yes.

- **Any other relevant information/ discussion:**
  - The spreadsheet that a prior committee developed to act as a rubric turned out
    to be detrimental to our decision-making. The categories and weightings did not
    apply the criteria correctly. The committee unanimously decided to disregard
    the spreadsheet in its current form for this year. The chair consulted with the

AD for Research and Graduate Studies on this matter and he concurred. Please note that the committee still applied the criteria provided to the sabbatical applicants. The only change was to allow the committee to abandon the flawed rubric spreadsheet. See the Recommendations section for more.

- **Charge 2 (standing charge):** Review nominations for and select recipients of the Council of Fellows Faculty Research Award and Council of Fellows Excellence in Outreach Award.

- **Progress with charge:** The committee reviewed the award nominations and then selected this year's recipients at the meeting on April 15.

- **Was the charge completed or not?** Yes.

- **Suggested charge(s) for next year**

  - Regarding Standing Charge 1 (review of sabbatical proposals), the 2019-2020 committee should meet early in the Fall semester and determine if the rubric spreadsheet can be salvaged or should be discarded. Also, rather than making the recommendations of the committee raw numbers from the spreadsheet, this year's committee felt that dividing the recommendations into tiers such as "Highly Recommend;" "Recommend;" "Recommend if Possible;" and "Do not Recommend" would be more useful to the campus administration.

  - The committee was unable to offer little more than basic suggestions from the Faculty Research Report that was administered the prior year. Since the 2019-2020 committee has an expert on survey research as a member, perhaps more complex analysis can be done.