

## College Research Committee 2019-2020 End of the Year Report

Name of committee: Research Committee

Chair of committee: Jay Amicangelo (SCI)

Committee members: Ying Cao (BUS), Kwangjoo Koo (BUS), Yabin Liao (ENG), Ihab Ragai (ENG), Tom Noyes (HSS), John Rossi (HSS), Darren Williams (SCI), Ivor Knight (ex-officio)

Approximate meeting dates/ number of times met: The committee met seven times on the following dates; 9/18/19, 10/2/19, 10/23/19, 11/13/19, 1/29/20, 3/25/20, 4/27/20

### Charges:

- Charge 1 (standing charge): Review sabbatical leave applications and recommend individuals for sabbaticals.
- Progress with charge: The committee reviewed 15 sabbatical leave applications in the fall and our rankings and recommendations were sent to the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Affairs.
- Was the charge completed or not? Yes
- Any other relevant information/discussion: The committee used the criteria listed in the Guidelines for Reviewing Sabbatical Applications to judge and rank the applications.

- Charge 2 (standing charge): Review nominations for and select recipients for Council of Fellows Faculty Research Awards and Faculty Outreach Award.
- Progress with charge: The committee reviewed the nominations for the Faculty Research and Faculty Outreach Awards and selected the recipients for the awards.
- Was the charge completed or not? Yes  
Any other relevant information/discussion: None.
  
- Charge 3 (non-standing charge): Investigate the need for a college-wide grant writer to assist in locating, writing, and submitting grant applications.
- Progress with charge: The committee met to discuss this charge with the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Affairs and in the discussion it was determined that trying to hire one single person to cover all of the areas of grant finding across the disciplines of the College would be very difficult. For the past year, the Associate Dean has contracted with a company called Hanover Research, which provides this kind of service, and it was agreed that this was the better way to approach assistance with grant writing. The Associate Dean did discuss that another staff person was going to be hired for the Behrend grants office and part of this persons would job would be to help find grants and for help submitting grants.
- Was the charge completed or not? Yes  
Any other relevant information/discussion: None.
  
- Charge 4 (non-standing charge): Survey faculty regarding barriers for research productivity, external funding submissions, and implementation of externally funded projects. Work with the

Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Affairs to develop a set of recommendations to address these barriers.

- Progress with charge: The committee met to discuss this charge with the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Affairs and in the discussion it was decided that the committee would hold two “listening” sessions to obtain faculty input into the perceived barriers to research productivity. These sessions were titled “Research and Creative Activities Forums” and were held on February 26 and 27 (1.5 hours each). We received both verbal and written responses to the perceived barriers to research productivity at these forums.
- Was the charge completed or not? No  
Any other relevant information/discussion: The comments from these sessions were compiled and the committee planned to discuss them after spring break to determine if a set of common or key barriers could be identified and recommendations then developed, however, with the shift to remote instruction after spring break due to the coronavirus made it difficult to complete this charge. The committee decided that the second part of the charge, which was to “Work with the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Affairs to develop a set of recommendations to address these barriers”, should be taken up as a charge for the 2020-2021 committee. The compiled comments received has been sent to the Associate Dean Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Affairs and should be made available to committee next year.
- Charge 5 (ad-hoc charge): In early March, the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Affairs asked the committee to review the nominations for the 2020 Undergraduate Research Award.

- Progress with charge: The committee reviewed the nominations for the Undergraduate Research Award and selected the recipient for the award.
- Was the charge completed or not? yes  
Any other relevant information/discussion: This was the first time that the committee was asked to review the nominations for the Undergraduate Research Award and if this is going to be an annual occurrence moving forward, then this should be made a standing charge for the committee.

Suggested charge(s) for next year.

- As described above in regards to charge 4, the committee decided that the second part of charge 4, which was to “Work with the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Affairs to develop a set of recommendations to address these barriers”, should be taken up as a charge for the 2020-2021 committee. The compiled comments received has been sent to the Associate Dean Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Affairs and should be made available to committee next year. The committee should then analyze the comments to see if any common or key barriers could be identified and then to work with the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Affairs to develop the recommendations to address these barriers.

- As described above for charge 5, this year the committee was asked to review the nominations for the Undergraduate Research Award. If this is going to be an annual occurrence moving forward, then this should be made a standing charge for the committee.