UNIVERSITY SENATE ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Name: Senate Research   2017-18

Number of Meetings Held this Year: 1 full committee meeting; 3 chair meetings with research office and library research staff.

Committee Chair: Robert S. D'Intino, Dept. Management & Entrepreneurship

Committee Members: (list here)

Robert D'Intino, Chair	Faculty- Business	
Amanda Almon	Faculty- Communication/Creative Art	
Carol Thompson	Faculty-Education	
Shivakakumar Ranganathan	Faculty- Engineering	
Kelly Duke-Bryant	Faculty-Humanities/Social Sciences	
Dawn Marie Bazemore	Faculty - Performing Arts	
Mehmet Uygur	Faculty-Science/Math	
Andrea Bottaro	Faculty-CMSRU	
	Faculty	
Xia (Linda)Liu	Faculty	
Greg Hecht	Faculty	
	Faculty	
Eric Gregory	Professional Staff	
Eduard Dedkov	Professional Staff	

Purpose of/Charge to Committee:

The research committee monitors research and research services on campus to identify and address issues of research interest. The committee makes recommendations for (I) promoting research and research awareness on campus; (II) meeting resource needs for research; and (III) establishing policies to ensure that research related issues on campus are addressed appropriately. The committee solicits, compiles and disseminates input from the campus community to ensure that the faculty, staff, students, and administration are aware of current research efforts, resources, and challenges.

Summary of Activities this Year:

Research committee members worked and consulted with faculty and professional staff members from the Departments, Colleges, students, and the Office of Research throughout the academic year. The committee participated in the following activities:

Discussion of Institutional Research Support at Rowan University as a nascent R3 research university: The committee members discussed what we as a committee can do to more fully understand the current state of faculty research support and resources and discover and encourage new research resources that will be required for faculty research in future years.

Division of University Research - working to understand how this new university research organizational structure will benefit faculty research endeavors. The four components of the new university research division:

- Proposal Development
- Sponsored Programs
- Research Compliance
- Graduate Research Services

Status of Research Compliance Committees reviewed:

- Human Subjects – *Institutional Review Board* (730 studies)
    - No violations, no complaints, program is compliant with all regulations
- Animals – *Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee* (66 studies)
    - No violations, no complaints, program is compliant with all regulations
- Biological Safety – *Institutional Biological Safety Committee* (89 studies)
    - No violations, no complaints, program is compliant with all regulations

The University Institutional Review Board (IRB) conducted reviews for 730 active human subject research studies. This number is projected to increase moderately in the next academic year. 98% of studies are minimal risk studies (risks are not greater than what individual's experiences in daily life). In the next academic year we expect several anticipated changes to regulations that will result in some reduction in the formal regulatory burden to researchers and for the University. The ORC is prepared to implement these changes when new regulations come into effect in January 2019.

Regarding the animal welfare arena, the number of research studies has increased approximately 120%. This increase is due to the consolidation of this program under a single management, and also the recruitment of new faculty conducting innovative translational research using animal models.

In the area of research laboratory safety and working with hazardous agents, there was 76% increase in number of studies conducted by Rowan University faculty and students.

Basic Research Support Issues were discussed with Office of Research personnel: Dr. Shreekanth Mandayam, Vice President for Research; Stephen Robishaw, Manager, Office of Proposal Development; and other research office professional staff.

Provided feedback on the **RU Seed Funding** proposal guidelines for 2017 based on last year's committee experiences and recommendations, with particular emphasis on

deliverables of the proposals and improvements for the 2018 Seed Funding program. For context as to the progress the research committee has made with the Seed research funding program, 26 Seed funding grant proposals were submitted in 2016. Last year the committee pushed for multiple additional Rowan University notices go out for the 2017 Seed Funding program which helped to increase faculty participation with a total of 40 Seed Funding submissions for 2017. For 2018 the Seed Funding submissions has remained steady with the 2018 total of 40 Seed research funding applications.

Provided feedback on the RU Seed Funding review guidelines with regard to the peer review process. The workload for the committee peer review process for 2018 increased due to the increased submissions total. Four reviews are scheduled per submission.

Reviewed **RU Seed Funding** application materials. Committee members and other faculty and staff performed and completed the Seed Funding review process and provided written quantitative reviews and narrative feedback for Seed grant applicants to the Office of Research by the deadline of May 27, 2018. The Research Office will announce the Final Seed Funding awards in early May 2018.

SUGGESTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

AY 2017-18 for AY 2018-2019

1. Research committee faculty and professional staff members will discuss with additional depth issues concerning basic research support issues with all the relevant stakeholders including faculty at Rowan Glassboro, SOM, and CMSRU campuses.

2. The research committee should facilitate and encourage efforts to foster new inter-disciplinary and cross- disciplinary collaborations among colleges in order to help move forward Rowan University's new mission and identify as a R3 'research university'.

3. Discuss ways to engage and enhance undergraduate/graduate student research opportunities on all the campuses as Rowan University moves forward as a R3 research university. Examine the ongoing and increasing new research and resource requirements that will be required in response to the new graduate MA, MS, and PhD degree programs, especially the new graduate degree programs placing new and growing demands on research compliance committee workloads.

4. Continue to collaborate with the Technological Resources Committee and examine ways to improve research support in terms of technology and computing.

5. Cooperate with the office of research to help improve the faculty research presence on the Rowan web and also work to improve data management of faculty researchers to better communicate faculty research interests, current projects, and resources needs.

6. Continue to explore how Rowan Digital Works can help research proposals and efforts at Rowan University. A new requirement was added this year for the Seed grant applications that each of the research applicants must add their research information into Rowan Digital Works in order to complete their grant application.