

UNIVERSITY SENATE
ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT 2019-20

Committee Name: Research Committee

Number of meetings held this year: 1 – November 4, 2019

Committee Chair: James Grinias, Chemistry & Biochemistry, CSM

Committee Members:

James Grinias	Faculty- Science/Math
Vahid Rahmani	Faculty - Business
Seoyeon (Celine) Hong	Faculty-Communication/Creative Art
Anna (Qian) Sun	Faculty-Education
Francis Haas	Faculty- Engineering
Michele Pich	Faculty-Humanities/Social Sciences
Davide Ceriani	Faculty - Performing Arts
Zachary Christman	Faculty - Earth and Environment
Erin Pletcher	Faculty - Health Professions
DJ Angelone	Faculty
Sarah Ferguson	Faculty
James Holaska	Faculty
Edward Dedkov	Faculty - CMSRU
Chuck Linderman	Professional Staff
<i>Open Seat</i>	Professional Staff
<i>Open Seat</i>	Professional Staff
Rele Shilpa	Librarian
<i>Open Seat</i>	IRB Representative
<i>Open Seat</i>	IACUC Representative
Gregory Hecht	IBC Representative
Benjamin Saracco	AFT Representative
Jason Fisch	SGA Representative

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:

The research committee activities were based on two key driving factors this year: (1) the suggestions and recommendations from the previous year's committee, and (2) Rowan's move to a "R2: High Research Activity" classification under the guidelines set by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education. Many of the previous year's recommendations focused on working with the Division of University Research to expand funding and collaboration opportunities for members of the Rowan community. A number of new on-line and in-person workshops were held by the Division to educate members of the community of pursuing research funding. New opportunities related to the Camden Health Research Initiative encouraged collaborative efforts across all three Rowan University campuses as well.

During the committee's major planning meeting in November 2019, a number of key research-related issues that need to be resolved on campus were identified with the move to "R2", including identifying the ultimate goals for both the research and educational cultures of Rowan. Key concerns related to procurement and technology needs for active researchers were expressed by members of colleges across campus. To help resolve some of these issues, the Research Committee Chair and the President of the Senate met with representatives from the Purchasing Office and Information Resources & Technology to better understand their processes and provide suggestions that would make research-related efforts on campus easier to perform. Communication from these offices to research-active faculty members was still identified as a challenge to overcome.

One of the committee's key responsibilities is to coordinate the review of grants to Rowan's SEED internal funding mechanism. Unfortunately, due to issues related to the COVID-19 crisis, no SEED awards will be granted during the 2020 cycle. When funding is reinstated with this program, new methods for reporting the outcomes of funded SEED grants will be developed in collaboration with the Division of University Research.

Members of the committee from the Rowan University Library community pursued additional work related to determining the needs that academic libraries have at major research institutions. Additional meetings were held to identify best practices in the area of open-access publishing. Other members of the committee have also found that new parking policies may be needed for PIs with laboratory research space on multiple campuses to ensure they have access to all sites as needed. Finally, PIs with human subject research identified a need for more activity by Rowan's Institutional Review Board to make sure that delays in protocol review for grant-funded research are avoided.

SUGGESTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Suggestions:

1. Improvements should be made to communicate procurement and IRT policy changes directly to Rowan University PIs that are affected by these changes.
2. Explore potential parking policies that ensure spaces for faculty members with research space on multiple campuses.
3. Work with the Division of University Research to find ways to better streamline the IRB approval process.

Recommendations:

1. Determine communication methods for research-related policy changes beyond the Rowan Daily Mail. Utilize the identified methods to directly communicate with PIs.