

UNIVERSITY SENATE
ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT 2020-21

Committee Name: *Research Committee*

Number of meetings held this year: 1 – February 16, 2021

Committee Chair: James Grinias, Chemistry & Biochemistry, CSM

Committee Members:

James Grinias (Chair)	Faculty- Science/Math
Vahid Rahmani	Faculty - Business
Seoyeon (Celine)Hong	Faculty-Communication/Creative Art
Sarah Ferguson	Faculty-Education
Francis Haas	Faculty- Engineering
Kul Kapri	Faculty-Humanities/Social Sciences
Davide Ceriani	Faculty - Performing Arts
Zacary Christman	Faculty - Earth and Environment
Erin Pletcher	Faculty - Health Professions
Amanda Fakira	Faculty
Meredith Joppa	Faculty
James Holaska	Faculty
Amanda Fakira	Faculty - CMSRU
Xiufang Chen	Faculty
Dylan Klein	Faculty
Brittine Pratt	Professional Staff
<i>Open Seat</i>	Professional Staff
<i>Open Seat</i>	Professional Staff
Rele Shilpa	Librarian
<i>Open Seat</i>	IRB Representative
Eduard Dekov	IACUC Representative
Kevin Currie	IBC Representative
Benjamin Saracco	AFT Representative
Samantha Bollendoft	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 early part of the committee year related to establishing policies for a successful “Return to Research” plan following campus closures related to COVID-19. This plan ensured a safe working environment for researchers on all campuses when work restarted in late summer 2020. A number of initiatives have been delayed due to budget shifts related to the pandemic. Future SEED award cycles are contingent upon a decision as to when these grants will once again be made available to the campus community. A potential change in award name and focus has also been discussed: the Rowan University Research Catalyst Program, which will prioritize funding for new projects in the five areas of the University of the Future initiative

Outreach has been made to a number of other groups on campus who have overlapping interests related to research endeavors on campus. Previous year recommendations on improving the ability to provide incentives to participants in human subject research studies have been instituted in part through collaboration with IRB and Purchasing. Members of this committee affiliated with Rowan’s library system are also leading efforts as part of the “Open Access Research” network across all three campuses. Others are participating in the Graduate School Committee, which is establishing policies and procedures for the new Rowan School of Graduate Studies that will be managing research-based graduate programs. One particular area that affects research endeavors on campus is the determination of appropriate support levels for graduate students, including insurance-related benefits. Finally, the committee is supporting grassroots efforts by senior faculty members related to improving research infrastructure and grant management on campus.

The Research Committee also helped with the marketing of the virtual Faculty Research Day in March 2021, which emphasized Rowan’s research endeavors related to COVID-19, the Camden community, and DEI initiatives.

SUGGESTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Suggestions:

- 1. Establish clear guidelines and timeline for submission, review, and budget management of proposed Rowan University Research Catalyst Program.**
- 2. Determine best practices for graduate student funding and insurance policies at peer institutions and leading research institutions and devise plans for fair and equitable guidelines related to these topics across all graduate programs.**
- 3. Explore future directions for research growth and infrastructure in Camden.**

Recommendations:

- 1. Improve communication efforts between the Division of University Research and the various campus entities collaborating with the Research Committee to increase productivity and eliminate duplicative efforts related to research policy development.**