

Academic Senate Research and Professional Development Committee Fall 2009 Quarterly Report

The committee met every other week, for a total of five times. This report briefly describes the issues discussed in the meetings.

- **Teacher-Scholar Model** The committee went through an examination of documents produced by the WASC group at Cal Poly. The suggestions that resulted were forwarded to the WASC group.
- **Resolution on expanding the use of the Digital Commons** The committee put together a proposal for a resolution to be voted on by the Senate in the next quarter.
- **Use of assigned time and release time** The committee examined the use of assigned time and release time. While at a first glance, the amount of resources spent on assigned time is relatively high, in the context of the overall budget it is not that significant, probably in the low single digit percentages. It is not clear how this assigned time is used, and how much of it supports research and professional development activities. Release time, which usually comes from outside sources and is used to reduce the teaching load of faculty, is not that frequently utilized. The reasons are unclear; the main factor seems to be a preference for additional compensation. Some faculty also reported pressure to maintain their usual teaching load, but it is not clear if these are relatively isolated occurrences.
- **Review current research and human subjects policy** Cal Poly has a policy on this topic, but there may be a need for revisions. However, there is an active **Human Subjects Committee**, and our committee decided to not pursue this further.
- **Review Cal Poly Strategic Plan** The **Cal Poly Strategic Plan** has been published on the President's Web page. Since this committee provided feedback on the draft version last Spring, our plan is to examine the published version concerning the consideration of our suggestions. A new version was published in the middle of the Fall quarter, and other urgent topics took precedence, but this remains on our agenda.
- **Status of R&PD at Cal Poly SLO** This overlaps to a significant degree with the assessment of the Teacher-Scholar Model.
- **Academic Freedom and Research** An invited talk by Michael Pollan (see the **Cal Poly News Article**) resulted in some controversies that lead to a discussion of the role of academic freedom at Cal Poly. Since this topic was discussed at length in the full senate, we did not pursue it further.
- **The Role of Graduate Programs at Cal Poly** Susan Opava: There is discussion about eliminating graduate programs, or transferring them to Continuing Education. The Faculty Affairs committee prepared a resolution to be presented to the senate; this committee agreed to co-sponsor the resolution.
- **Adequacy of current research grant administration efforts** We started a discussion on the adequacy of current research grant administration efforts, in particular the role of the Cal Poly Corporation. We still need to determine if we want to pursue this further.

Committee Organization

The committee continued to use a Wiki as a repository for committee documents, see [<http://wiki.csc.calpoly.edu/senate-research-prof-def/wiki>]. Available through the Wiki are this report, as well as meeting agendas and meeting notes. The Wiki also contains more detailed information on specific issues on the agenda, but those documents are restricted to committee members only.