

Academic Senate Research and Professional Development Committee Winter 2010 Quarterly Report

During the Winter 2010 quarter, the committee met every other week for about one and a half hours.

This report briefly describes the issues discussed in the meetings.

Resolutions Submitted

- The committee proposed a resolution on [Faculty Participation in DigitalCommons@CalPoly](#), which was accepted by the Senate on Feb. 9, 2010.
- The committee also co-sponsored a resolution with the Faculty Affairs Committee on [Program Suspension](#), also accepted by the Senate on Feb. 9, 2010.

Charges from the Senate Chair

During this quarter, the committee addressed the following charges it was given by the Senate chair at the beginning of the Academic Year:

- Establish procedures for dealing with complaints regarding research initiatives and partnerships
 - This has been incorporated into our "special procedures" document, which was approved by the executive committee on Feb. 23, 2010.

*Assigned Time - how is it dispensed? Some junior faculty have asked for clarity on this from Deans

- Susan Opava had her staff examine the data she has about assigned and release time. From what we can tell, assigned time is mostly used for administrative activities, and rarely to support research and professional development. After Susan Opava's report, there are no immediate actions on the agenda for the committee related to assigned time..
- Review current policy regarding research and human subjects - does policy need updating?
 - The committee determined that from its perspective, the current policies and procedures are adequate.

Other Agenda Items

Review Cal Poly Strategic Plan

The committee reviewed the most recent draft (Version 7) of the [Cal Poly Strategic Plan](#). There seem to have been mostly editing changes with respect to the previous version reviewed by the committee last year. The committee invited the coordinator for the Strategic Plan document, Erling Smith, to its meeting on Feb. 22, where he gave an overview for the planned evolution of the document. Partly due to the upcoming changes in the leadership at Cal Poly, no major changes are expected for the document, although editing work on it will continue.

Teacher-Scholar-Model

The committee was pleased to see that the final version of the report produced by the WASC group at Cal Poly and presented to the evaluation committee showed significant improvements over the draft version reviewed by the committee earlier. While there were some omissions and unclear passages left, the committee decided that these could be addressed by having individual committee members voicing their concerns to the visitors at the open faculty meeting or via email. Some individuals did that, but it is not clear if and how this was received by the WASC evaluators.

Adequacy of current research grant administration efforts

The committee continued its discussion of issues with the administration of research grants through the Cal Poly Corporation. Since there is an external evaluation in progress, and significant changes in Corporation personnel have occurred or are anticipated, the committee decided to postpone discussion of this topic.

Preparation for Spring Quarter

The committee decided to put together a "white paper" on the status of research and professional development at Cal Poly, with the intention of making this available to candidates for leadership positions at Cal Poly. This document will be based mostly on existing resources such as the [AS-691-09 Resolution on Research and Professional Development at Cal Poly](#), which was based on a R&PD Committee Report to the provost in 2008, the [Self-Study Report](#) produced by the WASC team, the [Cal Poly Strategic Plan](#), and possibly similar documents by other institutions.

Finally, the committee will continue its discussion of the use of research-related release time and assigned time by collecting information on "best practices" by colleges and departments.

Franz Kurfess

Chair, Academic Senate Research and Professional Development committee

March 15, 2010