

Academic Senate Research and Professional Development Committee Winter 2013 Quarterly Report

During the Winter 2013 quarter, the committee had meetings scheduled every other week for about 90 minutes, with a total of four meetings during the quarter.

This report briefly describes the issues discussed in the meetings.

Resolutions Submitted

- None

Charges from the Senate Chair and Executive Committee

This is the list of charges given to our committee. It reflects the possible activities we discussed at the end of the Spring 2012 quarter.

1. Teacher-Scholar Model, flexibility for junior faculty – continue discussion with Provost
2. The potential involvement and role for our committee in developing a process for competitive faculty research grants
3. The consideration of TSM aspects in the RPT guidelines
4. The exploration of a simplified SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis concerning the status of RSCA/TSM at Cal Poly - Kayzen analysis may be an alternative
5. Continuation of the discussion of support mechanisms for the Teacher-Scholar Model, including a review of relevant documents from the past
6. Work towards a regular status report on scholarship at Cal Poly (similar to the one Susan Opava's office did in 2004)
7. Informal yearly survey similar to the one on instructional technology done by the IACC
8. Systematic collection of relevant information - at the moment, this is done only on grants information by the Grants Development office
9. Identify examples of enabling and inhibiting practices relating to research and professional development
10. Possible discussion of consulting practices across departments - currently no university-wide policy on reporting of consulting activities

The committee discussed the consolidation and prioritization of the above issues. There is a reasonably straightforward grouping into three main parts:

- a. TSM Interpretation: What does it mean, and what are the implications for Cal Poly?
- b. TSM Information Collection: What information do we have, and what can we gather? Who will do the gathering, and what will be done with the collected information?
- c. TSM Support: How can we enable and encourage faculty to subscribe to the TSM, and to engage in relevant activities?

While the consolidation made sense in our internal discussion, we had difficulties with the determination of the priorities. This was due to some degree to the current lack of information about the restructuring of the administrative aspects of responsibilities for research and scholarly activities, accompanied by changes in personnel, such as the retirement of Dean Opava.

Restructuring of Research-Related Responsibilities at the University

In order to learn more about the restructuring of research-related responsibilities at the University, we invited Provost Finken Enz here for a discussion of the recent reassignments and new appointments, and the potential impact on activities of the committee. Due to scheduling difficulties, such a meeting did not take place during the Winter quarter. Al Liddicoat gave the committee an overview of the current state of affairs, and two new committee members joined

us in the Winter quarter, Bradford Anderson (Vice Provost of Research and Industrial Relations) and Dean Wendt (Interim Dean of Research and Grants Development).

Committee Name Change

Revisiting an issue that had come up several times earlier in the context of different discussions, the committee discussed changing its name to something like "Committee on Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities (RSCA)." It is our impression that the term is ambiguous, does not reflect the focus on the Teacher-Scholar Model, and may even have some negative connotations in certain contexts. Our working hypothesis is to change the name to something like "Committee on Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities (RSCA)". According to Susan Opava, this is the terminology commonly used at the CSU level, and it also seems like a better match for the terminology used in the Teacher-Scholar Model.

Related Activities in Other Committees and Similar Bodies

In an effort to keep the committee informed about related activities, Franz Kurfess gave a brief overview of recent developments in the Instructional Advisory Committee on Computing (IACC) / Faculty Advisory Committee on Technology (FACT). That committee has a long history and ongoing discussions of e-portfolios, repositories, content management systems, and collaboration systems. We believe that the use of such systems could be helpful for better dissemination of information about relevant activities across the university, and an increase in collaboration opportunities. This is also related to the potential use of a content management system for RPT Purposes. Bradford Anderson prepared a sample of a report generated by the Digital Measures system used in OCOB. While there are some reservations among faculty required to use that system concerning the additional overhead and its use, it seems clear that there is a need for a systematic, university-wide method of collecting such information.

Franz Kurfess

Chair, Academic Senate Research and Professional Development committee

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