Academic Senate Research and Professional Development Committee -
AY 2012-13 Report

During the 2012-2013 Academic Year, the committee met each quarter every other week for
about one and a half hours. We had no CAED representative during the academic year.

This report briefly describes the main issues discussed in the committee meetings.

Resolutions Submitted

- The committee submitted a Resolution on Proposed Name Change: "Academic Senate
  Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities Committee", which was approved by the
  Senate during the May 21, 2013 meeting.

Charges from the Senate Chair

The committee addressed the following charges it was given by the Senate chair at the beginning
of the Academic Year, reflecting the possible activities we had 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, and the
successive re-structuring of related roles responsibilities (see also below).

Support Mechanisms for Teacher-Scholar Model

Throughout the year, the committee reviewed the documents below in order to identify support
mechanisms for the implementation of the Teacher Scholar Model. During the S12 quarter, the committee had met with the new provost, Dr. Kathleen Enz Finken, where one of the primary discussion topics was the Teacher-Scholar Model, and how an institution like Cal Poly can implement it. Since there was significant effort involved in the Teacher-Scholar Model topic over the last few years, resulting in two resolutions incorporating contributions from this committee (AS-725-12 and AS-691-09), the committee had reservations about formulating another resolution that would largely duplicate previous efforts. We continue the discussion of this topic. Among the specific issues discussed were the following:

- the potential involvement and role for our committee in developing a process for competitive faculty research grants
- the consideration of TSM aspects in the RPT guidelines, in coordination with other Senate committees (such as Faculty Affairs) and university entities
- the exploration of a simplified SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) or Kayzen analysis concerning the status of RSCA/TSM at Cal Poly
- work towards a regular status report on scholarship at Cal Poly (similar to the one done by Research and Graduate Studies in 2004)
- coordinate an informal yearly survey similar to the one on instructional technology done by the IACC
- champion the systematic collection of relevant information; at the moment, this is done only on a limited basis, such as grants information by the Grants Development office; this also requires coordination with similar activities for RPT purposes

Restructuring of Research-Related Responsibilities at the University

To inform the committee about the restructuring of research-related responsibilities at the University during the 2012/13 time period, Al Liddicoat gave the committee an overview of the state of affairs in F12 and W13, and two new committee members joined us in the W13 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 "Committee on Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities (RSCA)." 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. This name change was proposed as a Senate resolution, which was approved in the Senate meeting on May 21, 2013: Resolution on Proposed Name Change: "Academic Senate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities Committee".

Related Activities in Other Committees and Similar Bodies

In an effort to keep the committee informed about related activities, Franz Kurfess participated in meetings of 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.
Committee Organization

The committee did not have a representative from CAED.

The committee continues 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.

Franz Kurfess

Chair, Academic Senate Research and Professional Development committee

June 20, 2013