

Academic Senate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities (RSCA) - AY 2013-14 Report

During the 2013-2014 Academic Year, the committee met each quarter every other week for about one and a half hours.

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

Resolutions Submitted

The AS-780-14 "Resolution on Revisions to Policies Related to Centers and Institutes" was submitted jointly by this committee and the Academic Senate Faculty Affairs Committee, and approved by the Senate on March 13, 2014.

Charges from the Senate Chair

Based on the charges given to the committee by the Senate chair in the previous year, the committee identified 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?

Resolution on Revisions to Policies Related to Centers and Institutes

In response to an audit by the CSU, this committee was charged with a review of the revised policies about centers and institutes at Cal Poly. The committee conducted two rounds of reviews of a draft document on the policies formulated under the leadership of Bradford Anderson, the university's interim vice president for research and economic development. Another review was conducted by the Faculty Affairs committee. Both committees were in support of the revised policies document, and a resolution to support the document was submitted jointly by the two committees to the Senate.

Research Space in Building 52

Dean E. Wendt, Interim Dean of Research, briefed the committee on recent developments from his office. One significant issue was a proposal for using available space in Building 52 for research-oriented purposes. His proposal was to create two categories of research space: One that is available for funded research projects, and allocated competitively. The other category is space permanently allocated to colleges, for use determined by the respective deans. This proposal was supported by the committee, and successfully applied in a first round of space allocation starting in Spring 2014.

Indirect Cost and Release Time Policies

Dean also presented a proposal to restructure the use of funds generated from Indirect Costs. Possibly by merging these funds with similar ones, he proposes the creation of a funding pool that provides benefits to researchers with funded proposals, essentially returning part of the indirect costs generated by proposals to the proposers. The committee discussed benefits and drawbacks of such a scheme, and overall was in support of the proposal.

Related Activities in Other Committees and Similar Bodies

Continuing the effort to keep the committee informed about related activities, Franz Kurfess regularly advised the committee of recent developments in the Instructional Advisory Committee

on Computing (IACC) / Faculty Advisory Committee on Technology (FACT), and the ITS ad hoc group on "Emergent Technologies."

Committee Organization

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 11, 2014