

## RSCA COMMITTEE REPORT FALL 2015

In preparation for the fall term activities, the committee chair met with Senate Chair Dr. Gary Laver (8/31/2015) to discuss the charge of the committee. Based on the discussion with the Gary Laver the following items were added to the committee's charge for 2015-16 academic year:

- Recognition of Consulting Practices as a Creative Activity in the tenure process
- Elements of Regular status report on scholarship at Cal Poly
- Establishing published bylaws and mechanism of action by faculty members in the Human Subjects and Research Policies
- Support mechanisms for teacher-scholar model and explicit examples of positive and negative practices

These items were discussed at the committee meeting on Thursday 11/5/2015. All members were present except the Provost, Thomas Korman (on leave during fall term), and Suzanne Phelan (scheduling conflict). Brief overview of the committee discussion is provided below for each discussion item:

- Recognition of Consulting Practices as a Creative Activity in the tenure process
  - The committee felt that as a Polytechnic University the fields of study offered on this campus are significantly diverse that the current practice of each discipline having their own definition of Creative Activity is likely a good approach. A uniform campus-wide policy defining "Creative Activity" would not be a good idea.
- Elements of Regular status report on scholarship at Cal Poly
  - One potential element of this could be externally funded grants. Research and Economic Development Office maintains a detailed record of the external grant proposals submitted by Cal Poly faculty. The committee felt while external grants are critical to scholarship at a university, scholarship cannot be measured in terms of grant monies. Grants support scholarship but are not scholarship by themselves. Ultimately externally validated work (e.g., peer-reviewed publication data) should be used to measure scholarly activities. Committee talked about a few off-the-shelf tool (like Scopus) that can provide such measures. The question of who will be charged with producing such report was also briefly discussed but not resolved.
- Establishing published bylaws and mechanism of action by faculty members in the Human Subjects and Research Policies

- Dr. Wendt emphasized the need for consistency in the Human Factors Committee work and cautioned against changing the committee or committee chair too often. Due to complex federal regulations involved in the matter the work is indeed too complex to learn for a new person. Having said that, the committee universally concurred with the idea of having published by laws to have a mechanism to rotate members/chair over time. The committee would look into models from other universities for these by-laws.
- Support mechanisms for teacher-scholar model and explicit examples of positive and negative practices
  - This item was discussed briefly with significant input from Dr. Liddicoat. He brought up the College of Business model for incentivizing faculty to conduct research as a positive. The model may be harder to replicate elsewhere at Cal Poly since the initiation funds for the model were part of an endowment. Then the discussion moved towards whether some of the positive practices (identified by the committee over this academic year) can be implemented on a pilot basis by smaller units within colleges.

The committee is going to continue to discuss these issues through winter and spring terms.

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