

Report on the Activities of the 2010-2011 Senate Council on Research & Scholarships

Chair: Henrietta L. Logan

SCORS Purview: The purview of the Research and Scholarship Council is all policy matters concerning research and scholarship conducted at the University of Florida. The Council's functions are:

- (a) to recommend appropriate policies and priorities to support the quality, stature, and relevance of the University's research initiatives;
- (b) to make recommendations concerning existing interdisciplinary research directions and review the quality of affiliated institutes and centers and their leadership; and to recommend actions necessary to enhance the research functions of the University;
- (c) to recommend new or expanded research initiatives based on the expertise of the Faculty and the conclusions reached on the basis of its analysis; and to review, on the behalf of the Faculty Senate, administrative proposals for initiation or elimination of research initiatives;
- (d) to make recommendations on policies concerning the distribution of indirect costs from research grants;
- (e) to recommend on policy matters concerning graduate students and research personnel; and
- (f) to recommend on policy and programs that enhance the research experience of undergraduates.

(1) Contributing Committees (voting members)

- Graduate Council (Joint Committee)
- Research Policy Committee (Joint Committee)

(2) Related Committees (nonvoting members)

- Institutional Animal Care and Use (Presidential Committee)
- Institutional Biosafety (Presidential Committee)
- Institutional Review Boards (Presidential Committee)

Responsibilities of the SCORS: This council's area encompasses University policies and procedures relating to research and scholarship, including university-wide research and scholarship initiatives and strategies; research grants and contracts; research infrastructure; and other matters relating to funding or producing scholarship.

Members

Azra Bihorac	Senate Member, Anesthesiology
Robert Cook	Senate Member, Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Henry Frierson	Administrative Liaison, Graduate Programs
William Kem	Senate Member, Pharmacology
Henrietta Logan	Chair, Community Dentistry and Behavioral Sciences
Debra Murie	Senate Member, School of Forest Resources and Conservation
Win Phillips	Administrative Liaison, Research
Sandra Russo	Senate Member, International Center

Topics Discussed

- **Effort Reporting** Status of Effort Reporting was addressed multiple times across the AY 2010-2011 with Jim Ferrer, Assistant Vice President, Finance and Planning. (October, January, March, April) Members of the Council also attended demonstrations of potential soft ware and focus groups hosted by Mr. Ferrer in which faculty concerns with the current system of effort reporting were discussed. Concerns centered on the lack of consistent metrics in reporting teaching, research, and service which overall caused faculty to under report the amount of time spent teaching, overseeing student research, and supervising graduate students. Challenges for 9 month faculty and those who participate in cost sharing were also discussed. In the final report to SCoRS in April, Mr. Ferrer described the changes in the online system and asked that feedback about the system be directed to him or the infrastructure Council in AY 2011-2012. SCoRS members raised concerns that adequate training be provided to departmental staff who oversee the certification process and that collegiate and departmental administrators use the data with a clear understanding of its limitations. The council will continue to monitor and provide feedback on the revised system.
- **IT and Data Security** Chief Information Officer CIO (Elias Eldayrie, September 2010) provided information about the strategic plan for IT support for Research Strategic Plan. Similarly, Rob Adams, Information Security Officer (Feb 2011) provided tentative plans for Security and Research Activity. These were information items and no action was taken.
- **RCM impact on interdisciplinary research** SCoRS met in a joint session with the Budget Council to discuss positive and negative impact of RCM on the academic mission. The discussion with the Budget Council and Dean Mark Law (Engineering), Dean Paul Danieri (CLAS) and Dean Mark Rieger (IFAS) included concerns from SCoRS about the impact of RCM on interdisciplinary teaching and research programs and on individual faculty whose work is interdisciplinary.
- **Online P&T reporting** Angel Kwolek-Folland, Associate Provost of Academic Affairs, reported (February 2011) on working with Enterprise Systems and the online promotion and tenure software program. Currently a faculty member must submit a dossier of about 50 pages. Plans are to put all of this online. This system will be multipurpose with hopes that most of the databases on campus can be mapped for use to produce different reports. The council remains concerned that existing systems that colleges' use for reporting will be able to transfer data to the new online system and that ultimately duplicated effort such as to enter data into VIVO will be eliminated. The council will invite Dr. Kwolek-Folland to report on the online system and its current state in AY 2011-2012.
- **Training Grants** Two sessions (March, April 2011) were devoted to T-32 Training Grants at UF. Henry Frierson, Dean of Graduate Studies distributed a document that showed *The Top 26 Public US Academic Institutions by Total Institutional NIH Training Grant Awards for FY09* with University of Florida in the 20th spot. David Bloom, Associate Professor, Molecular Genetics and Microbiology Michael Marsiske, Associate Professor, Institute on Aging and Bill MacArthur retired Professor of Oral Biology provided their personal experiences with T-32 training grants. David Guzick Sr. Vice President for Health Affairs provided his strategic vision for training grants and graduate education in the Health Science Center. A long discussion revolved around T-32 training grants, students getting paid in a timely manner, incentives for faculty to apply for training grants, and using R01 grants as an alternative for graduate education. Many of the challenges about getting the fellows paid in a timely manner and how the 40% unfunded tuition portion is to be paid are UF internal policies that could be reconciled to make T32 funding more

appealing. Concern was also raised that with future tuition increases, it will be cheaper to hire a post-doc than a graduate student and that this potential problems needs to be monitored. Overall the council felt that benefits of T-32 grants (new monies for student funding, creation of a programmatic emphasis around which faculty can coalesce, reputational benefits and development of an “elite corps” of research focused students) outweighed the costs and that removing institutional barriers to faculty pursuing this type of funding should be assiduously fostered. Additional meetings on faculty incentives and streamlining UF procedures related to training grants are planned for AY 2011-2012.

Robert Cook and Debra Murie will be co-chairs for AY 2011-2012

Tentative Items for Next Year’s Agenda

- Revisit effort reporting
- Revisit instructor workload
- Visit from CIO on IT Strategic Plan
- Tenure and Promotion online system
- VIVO
- Training Grants Progress
- Effects of RCM on interdisciplinary research and scholarship programs

Respectfully Submitted,

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