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# Academic Support Committee Report – AY May 2010

Co-Chairs: Kathleen Lamkin-Kennard and Christye Sisson

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## 2010-2011

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SCB defers

# ASC Members

AY 2010-2011

I. Prepare a motion for the adoption of a policy that provides guidelines for use of self-published materials and for faculty use of own publications as course requirements in consultation with the Individual Conflict of Interest / Commitment Committee. Recommend appropriate placement for the policy in the Policies and Procedures Manual.

- The committee, in consultation with RIT Legal Affairs, believes the existing Conflict of Interest Policy and Intellectual Property Policy as stated in the RIT policies and procedures manual adequately addresses the issue of self-publishing and faculty use of own publications as course requirements.

The ASC recommend the following to increase awareness and self-publishing compliance:

- Mandatory training for new faculty and first-line supervisors in the Conflict of Interest and Intellectual Property Policies
- Inclusion of the terms “self-publishing” and “faculty use of own publications” within the Conflict of Interest survey/questionnaire required yearly
- Inclusion of self-publishing/publishing within the ICIC Employee/Supervisor training as a case study, and listing of publishing as required reported activity

# Supporting Documentation

- Review of the Individual Conflict of Interest and Commitment Policy <http://finweb.rit.edu/legalaffairs/individualconflict.html> with Erica Duthiers of RIT Legal Affairs
- In conjunction with this review, Legal Affairs **did not** feel that a modification of the current policy is warranted, but recommended that this committee should specifically state that the scope of the relatively new and sufficiently broad ICIC policy does apply in the context of self-publishing, and provides for a course of action including annual disclosures, conflict management, oversight, sanctions, and appeals.
- <http://finweb.rit.edu/legalaffairs/compliance.html>
- <http://finweb.rit.edu/legalaffairs/disclosure.html>

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# Recommendations and Conclusions

- The ASC does not recommend an amendment to the current Conflict of Interest and Intellectual Property Policy in regards to self-publishing
    - However, the committee would like to emphasize that disclosure of conflict does not preclude a faculty member from using his/her own texts in a course, but that the policy provides for disclosure and management of the actual or perceived conflict. Management may include a plan that requires faculty to get approval at the appropriate level to mitigate the appearance of impropriety.
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II. Review the Wallace Center reorganization and proposed expansion of facilities in consultation with Lynn Wild. Report the impact of changes and, where appropriate, recommend improvements to the Senate.

- The core functions of the Wallace Center have not changed as a result of the merger; the merger resulted in a larger academic support unit on campus, blending the strengths of both organizations and increasing operational effectiveness/efficiency. Major challenges that exist are challenges that existed prior to the merger.
  - The committee expresses its continued interest in facilitating feedback for the Wallace Center as a point of contact with the respective faculty of member colleges, particularly as it relates to providing the Center with workable data related to subscription and renewal and the emerging challenges of electronic publishing and e-journals.
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III. Review the policies and procedures of Sponsored Research Services and Sponsored Programs Accounting services and examine their effectiveness. Identify ways to streamline and simplify the administrative part of working with contracts and grants in consultation with Don Boyd. Report recommendations to Senate.

- The committee met with David Bond, Director of Sponsored Research Services, who provided a description of the services provided by SRS as well as a discussion of some of the challenges SRS is experiencing as RIT moves to a more research-oriented institution.
- SRS is moving to the adoption of COEUS, a MIT-originated proposal development and pre and post award management system.
- Challenges have included the management of special pools of federal funding (as part of the economic stimulus) that require higher levels of reporting



# Additional Challenges

- SRS does provide training for those individuals within colleges (PIs, administrators) that may deal with budget allocation, but this training is voluntary and internal audits have identified a gap between support within the individual colleges and SRS.
- Increasingly, federal and corporate systems are becoming paperless; this has been problematic as troubleshooting the individual systems takes time and consumes SRS time and resources.
- As research at RIT continues to grow, they are often working on big centralized proposals that take a lot of time, thus less time is available to do outreach as they work toward deadlines and implementation and processing of proposals.

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# ASC Recommendations

- The primary recommendation of the committee is to raise awareness on campus related to the role of Sponsored Research Services and the services offered by SRS.
  - Across the University, there are varying levels of awareness of SRS and faculty in many cases become self-reliant rather than utilizing resources available through SRS.
  - The committee also recommends that the Academic Support Committee retains its role as a focus group for SRS and to serve as a conduit for SRS to disseminate information and obtain feedback from the faculty.
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