

Charge: Evaluate and recommend changes to the stated policy for Research Center creation and review, particularly related to the Center's responsibility to be transparent about requirements and decision making process for faculty affiliation as well as overall operation. **Evaluate and recommend changes to the affiliation agreement**, particularly where they relate to faculty plan of work, access to Center resources, and academic freedom.

Recommendation 1: Adopt the proposed Center for Research Excellence / Major Research Laboratory affiliation agreement

Recommendation 2: Form a Standing "Research Committee" of Academic Senate

Recommendation 1: Adopt the proposed Center for Research Excellence / Major Research Laboratory affiliation agreement

- Currently there are no standardized processes for affiliations with CREs and MRLs; there is no accurate centralized record of current affiliations.
- Current practices conflict with RIT's commitment to academic freedom, insofar as all faculty do not have equal access to apply for affiliation CRE/MRLs on campus
- Many CREs/MRLs operate without by-laws and policies of governance, or they may have these and do not supply them to all affiliates
- Currently, affiliation with CREs and MRLs is not a formal part of faculty Plans of Work
- Currently, termination of affiliation follows no established path; it may violate RIT's commitment to academic freedom, and other relevant policies.
- Currently there is no central repository of all affiliation agreements

Recommendation 1: Adopt the proposed Center for Research Excellence / Major Research Laboratory affiliation agreement

- A Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)-designated Center for Research Excellence (CREs) or Major Research Laboratory has a defined focus, involving multiple externally funded projects from multiple principal investigators (PIs) and support and/or research staff. Among other aspects, CREs/MRLs are defined in terms of research expenditure. [See [http://www.rit.edu/research/srs/grantsmgmt/Recovered FA Return.htm](http://www.rit.edu/research/srs/grantsmgmt/Recovered_FA_Return.htm)].
- Consistent with academic freedom, all faculty shall have equal access to apply for affiliation CRE/MRLs on campus
- All CREs/MRLs shall provide by-laws and policies of governance to all affiliates
- All affiliation agreements shall become part of faculty members' Plans of Work
- The termination of affiliation, with due cause, shall be via written notice from the affiliate to the CRE/MRL Director and faculty member's department head or supervisor
- All affiliation agreements shall be updated annually and the Office of Research shall keep accurate records of all affiliations

Recommendation 2: Form a Standing “Research Committee” of Academic Senate

- Research is a growing institutional priority
 - Emphasized in the Strategic Plan
 - Mirrors change in Carnegie Classification
 - Growth in number of undergraduate and graduate students conducting research
- Research cross-cuts existing committee structure
- Policies around key issues do not yet exist
 - Creation, roles, responsibilities of “Research Centers” (outside CRE/MRL discussed previously)
 - Mechanisms for formalizing and enhancing interdisciplinary research

Recommendation 2: Form a Standing “Research Committee” of Academic Senate

- Stanford:
“The Committee on Research.... formulate research policy and review the operations of the University's principal officer for research (i.e., the Vice Provost and Dean of Research) with respect to the implementation of such policy. (See the complete RPH: Charge to the Committee on Research) For further information about the Committee, contact the Office of the Vice Provost and Dean of Research or the Academic Secretary.” <https://doresearch.stanford.edu/policies/research-policy-handbook/committees-and-panels-support-research/committees-councils-and-governing-boards#anchor-435>

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- Berkeley:
“The Committee on Research advises the Division in matters pertaining to the research mission of the Division and the University; confers and advises the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor-Research on faculty perspectives regarding research policy matters; and, administers a grant program to support emeritus faculty research and scholarship.”
<http://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/committees/cor>

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- Case Western:
“The Committee on Research shall participate in the initiation and formulation of University policies bearing directly on academic research encompassing all disciplines and shall direct such participation towards facilitation of the performance of high quality research..... shall monitor the implementation of existing research policy to determine status and adequacy.... research involving human subjects, animal experimentation, inventions and patents, copyrights, computer resources, and biohazards.”

Google for "faculty senate committee on research" has many others.