Academic Affairs Committee : 2016-2017

Charge AA 4: Develop a white paper describing a standing "Research Committee" (with an appropriate name for the committee to be created) of academic senate, and bring forward the proposal as a motion for Academic Senate, along with a list of initial charges and ongoing responsibilities

Subcommittee: Callie Babbitt, Matthew Fluet, P. Venkataraman

AAC has circulated the white paper to AS titled:
Formation of Research and Scholarship Committee

which includes:
- **Background**
- **Process**
- **Recommendation**
- **Motion**

Academic Affairs Committee : 2016-2017

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Background:

- RIT is at a clear point of transition in the evolution as a research institution
    strategic goal: "the student-centered research university"

Research Funding (M$)

FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16
30	31	36	47	52	62	73

Graph provided by Ryne Raffaelle

Academic Affairs Committee : 2016-2017

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Background:

- Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education: from "Masters – Comprehensive" to "Doctoral University - Moderate Research Activity."

- Concurrently, an emphasis on *interdisciplinary* scholarship has been underscored, which presents new challenges and opportunities

- Research compliance issues have increased dramatically over the last decade and are likely to continue become even more complex moving forward.

- University policies and practices will likewise evolve and emerge to catalyze, facilitate, and sustain the growing research endeavor, while maintaining excellence in teaching and learning

- These policies are likely to have direct and indirect impacts on all faculty and our ability to provide students with meaningful research experiences
  - Ex: Indirect costs ("overhead) return distribution and strategic reinvestment

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Process:

- benchmarking other universities

- seeking input from RIT VP of Research, Ryne Raffaelle, and relevant committees at RIT

- consulting with RIT documents, such as the Governance and Administrative Policy libraries and the RIT 2015-2025 Strategic Plan

Benchmarking was carried out by identifying universities who had standing committees focused on research issues and studying publicly-available information about their charges, activities, and findings

Universities: University of Rochester, University at Buffalo, University of Pittsburgh, Case Western, Drexel, North Carolina State, Stanford, Emory University, Georgia Tech, Oakland University, UC Davis, Penn State, and University of Washington

Key items identified included committee name, responsibilities, charges, and current issues and challenges being addressed.

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Findings

- Currently, mechanisms for the faculty role in shared governance related to research policies and procedures are diffuse and unclear

- In some cases, needed research policies have not been formulated due to lack of a "home" committee to undertake the necessary research and recommendations.

- Many universities have a comparable committee at the level of Academic Senate (or comparable)
    - Typically focused on evaluation of and advisement on university-level research policies, compliance issues, and support structures (library, research computing, IT/reporting systems)
    - Some assist in review and awarding of internal grants and awards (e.g., seed funds, research recognition)
    - They often include both funded and non-funded research and scholarship

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Vice President for Research, Ryne Raffaelle's Perspective:

"We are now a national research university and research is a big part of how RIT is currently constituted, as evidenced by the $70M in awards last year. It is also a very important factor in how we are ranked and viewed by those outside the university. It has never been more important to have the faculty voice represented in our institutional governance of our research enterprise."

Academic Affairs Committee : 2016-2017

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Recommendations:

The sub-committee recommends that the Academic Senate form a <u>Research and Scholarship Committee</u> to represent the faculty in matters pertaining to research and scholarly activity.

Responsibility: to evaluate, propose, and monitor effectiveness and implementation of University-level policies and procedures with respect to research operations and facilities, and research regulation and compliance in support of the diverse research and scholarship activities throughout the University.

Scope: research and scholarship of all types for which University-level policies and procedures may apply (e.g., funded and non-funded; faculty and student; graduate and undergraduate).

Academic Affairs Committee : 2016-2017

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Example Charges – within three broad categories:

1. **Building capacity for research and scholarship**

Example Charges:

- Evaluate sufficiency and opportunities for improvement of current models and mechanisms for strategic reinvestment in research (e.g., the University overhead return model, seed funds for research initiation)

- Propose mechanisms for catalyzing interdisciplinary research (e.g., overhead return distributions between colleges, credit for collaborating researchers on sponsored awards)

- Propose policy and guidelines for forming or affiliating with a named research center or lab (including Centers for Research Excellence and Signature Interdisciplinary Research Areas)

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2. Evaluating research policy and compliance

Example Charges:

- Review existing research-related policies, such as Misconduct in Research and Scholarship C02.0 (last review (LR) 1996); Protection of Human Subjects in Research C05.0 (LR 2011); C04.0 Individual Conflict of Interest and Commitment Policy (as it relates to research) (LR 2011); C03.0 Intellectual Property Policy (LR 2009)

  (This is current charge AA 7 of the AAC)

- Review the adequacy of RIT communication and resources provided to assist faculty with policy compliance (e.g. Understanding applicability of Human Subjects Research Policy in conducting Pedagogical studies)

Academic Affairs Committee : 2016-2017

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3. Strategic assessment and advancement of research and scholarship

Example Charges:

- Evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of current systems for collecting data to characterize faculty scholarship (e.g., Faculty Scholarship Report).

- Evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of current systems for collecting university-level data on sponsored research (e.g., RAPID)

- Advise VP for Research and/or Sponsored Research Services as necessary with respect to calls for proposals with limited submissions

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Motion:

The Academic Senate establishes the Research and Scholarship Committee*:

Research and Scholarship Committee. The Research and Scholarship Committee shall evaluate, propose, and assess effectiveness of University-level policies and procedures relating to faculty and student research and scholarship activities.

The committee shall also serve as liaison for the Senate with the Vice President of Research and with other appropriate administrators and administrative policy bodies of the University.

The committee shall consist of one faculty member per college, each to be elected by his or her collegial faculty; three members at large elected by the Academic Senate; one Associate Dean for Research (or equivalent) selected by the Deans Council; and the Vice President of Research or his or her delegate (ex-officio, voting).

*Open question: standing committee or pilot as an ad hoc committee

University at Buffalo

- "Research and Creative Activities"
  - This committee shall review, report and recommend to the senate matters concerning university policies, procedures and actions regarding research and creative activity; university facilities for research and creative activity; funding for research and creative activity; and responsibilities and liabilities of researchers.

Penn State

- "Committee on Research"
  - The Committee on Research is charged with promoting graduate and undergraduate research and scholarly activities and advising the Senate on research policies including research facilities and overhead and fringe benefit computation. It shall, within the advisory and consultative functions of the Senate, be consultative and advisory on all items involving research policies and services. It shall ensure an active faculty role in formulation of all research computing and information systems policies as they affect faculty and students in conjunction with the Libraries, Information Systems, and Technology Committee. It shall make recommendations to Senate Council on the establishment, reorganization, or discontinuation of organized research units and institutes. It will maintain formal liaison with the University Research Council. One member of the committee shall serve on the Penn State Press Editorial Committee. It shall be the Senate advisory body to the Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School.

University of Pittsburgh

- Research Committee
  - …focuses on research within the University of Pittsburgh, non-funded and funded, including relevant policies and procedures, research operations, research regulation and compliance, support of researchers, and the management of intellectual property, to assist the University Senate in its provision of advice and recommendations about these issues to the senior administration of the university and, also, to faculty, staff and students.
    - Integration of research and community engagement/community based research
    - Intellectual property policies
    - Conflict of interest
    - Review of web resources for researchers

Drexel University

- Committee on Research and Scholarly Activity
  - …shall represent the faculty in matters pertaining to all types and kinds of research and scholarly activity. The main purpose of the Committee is to advocate for the appropriate institutional policies, support structures and facilities for diverse research and scholarship activities throughout the University. The Committee is tasked to participate in the development, monitoring, and evaluation of all matters and policies related to the research enterprise at the University.

Case Western University

- 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. The Committee shall devote special attention to the policies and regulations deriving from sponsoring agencies providing funding from sources outside the University and shall direct its attention to the maintenance of a proper balance between the recognition and fulfillment of obligations assumed in the acceptance of outside funding and the retention of academic freedom in the pursuit of appropriate research initiatives.

  - …shall monitor the implementation of existing research policy to determine status and adequacy. Categories of interest to the Committee shall include, but not be limited to, research involving human subjects, animal experimentation, inventions and patents, copyrights, computer resources, and biohazards….