

## **Research and Scholarship Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

### **Wednesday November 6, 2019, 1-2pm in BU 449**

Attendance: Elliott Horch (Chair), Sousan Arafah, Chuck Baraw, Lisa Bier, Carol Jenkins (for Christine Broadbridge), Jeremy Chandler, Yan Liu, Jennifer McCullagh (recording), Yulei Pang, Jonathan Weinbaum, and Bo Zamfir.

Sign-In and Call to Order at 1:05pm

1. News from DRI
  - a. Carol Jenkins gave a brief report that included these items:
    - The Fall Research TAPAS event will be on Monday, Nov 25<sup>th</sup>. Carol reported that there will be 22 presenters at that event.
    - Christine Broadbridge and Elliott Horch have begun to discuss the Spring semester themed TAPAS event. The theme will be “Celebrating Collaborations.” One goal is to have a Keynote Presenter, perhaps Elliott’s collaborator at Georgia State University. Planning for the event will be in early January and the call will come out in early January.
    - Undergraduate and Graduate Research Conferences are both in May this year. May 2 event—Undergraduate Research Event will overlap with the CSU Faculty Research Event at CCSU on May 1 and 2. The Graduate event will be Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.
    - A summer program overseen by DRI for STEM-related research has just announced a call for applications, with a deadline of Feb 1.
2. Consideration of the minutes of our Sep 4, 2019 meeting
  - a. An amendment was offered by the Chair to state that James Kearns was recording the minutes.
  - b. With that amendment, the minutes were approved: 8 in favor, 1 abstention.
3. Subcommittee Updates
  - a. Events (Summarized by Carol Jenkins above)
  - b. Student Awards
    - Applications will be due for undergrad research assistant and undergrad research grants in about two weeks. For the benefit of newer members, there was a brief discussion of the difference between the two programs. Undergraduate Research Grants are for student-driven/led research, and the Undergrad Research Assistant is for student support on faculty research.
    - Graduate conference travel grants- deadline Dec 6. Discussion around the nature and timing of these grants occurred.
  - c. Faculty Awards

- Mid-Faculty Research Award (Jenn McCullagh, Chair) – subcommittee made the recommendation to the Provost. Thank you to Sousan Arafeh, James Kearns, and Lisa Bier for reviewing.
  - Joan Finn Faculty Research Fellowship call to come out November 8 with a deadline of January 22. BOR research award deadline extended to increase the number of proposals.
4. Advice sought by the chair
- a. Grad Student Travel Funds – is there a way to immediately fund incoming graduate students?
    - It was mentioned that a rolling deadline would be more helpful to the applicants so they can apply as they find out about their meeting participation, and if awarded the money can be encumbered. If the work is not accepted at the meeting, then the money would be returned to the pool. However, that may not work because of limited funding; typically, there are more applicants than awards.
  - b. Possible tightening of language on Mid- and Senior-Level Faculty Research Award to account for sabbatical cases occurring close in time to award.
    - A brief discussion occurred but no firm conclusions were reached.
  - c. RSAC Website
    - The Chair reported that thanks to the efforts of Bo Zamfir, the RSAC site is now on the new SCSU webpage. The link is <https://inside.southernct.edu/rsac>
5. Stat Support Fund
- a. Progress since the last meeting
    - The Chair briefly discussed that pledges of support totaling over \$5,000 had been secured since the last RSAC meeting to begin a Stat Support Fund this academic year.
  - b. Requirements and questions from the Provost
    - The Chair has begun to talk with the Provost on how to organize the fund, identify worthy projects for it, and disburse funds. In those discussions, the Provost has asked several key questions and asked the Chair to put together a document summarizing how the fund would work.
  - c. Possible steps moving forward
    - The committee discussed the utility of having the Chair meet with Terri Bennett on this topic. As the former Math Department Chairperson, it was thought that she would have insights to offer.
6. Adjourn 2:00pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Jennifer McCullagh.*