
Summary Report of the 2009 Survey of Research Scholarship and Creative Activity

Research Scholarship and Creative Activity Policy Committee

17 May 2010

The Spring 2009 RSCAPC Survey

On 22 May, and again on 5 June 2009, the RSCAPC (Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Policy Committee) circulated a [questionnaire](#) to tenured and tenure-track faculty, librarians, and counselors to gain feedback on what resources they need for their research, scholarship and creative activities. The purpose of the questionnaire was to assist the committee in making recommendations to the Academic Senate and the University administration on key RSCA concerns. All told, 73 questionnaires were completed and submitted. Perhaps because of the timing of the survey, late in the spring semester, the overall response rate was somewhat low (14%), however the rate varied considerably across campus:

	Responses	Response Rate
College of Business Administration	7	14.0%
College of Human & Health Sciences	13	17.6%
College of Humanities & Social Sciences	21	13.6%
College of Natural Sciences	10	12.8%
College of Arts	4	7.8%
College of Education	10	8.8%
Library & Counseling Services	8	61.5%

Nevertheless, the committee believes that useful information was generated. Below, we provide a summary of the responses to the eight survey questions but the raw data are also available [here](#).

Q. 1. What is a realistic amount of time to work on RSCA per week?

- 74% need 8 hours or less – 1 day of work per week
- 34% need 4 hours or less – ½ day of work per week
- 26% need more than 1 day per week

Q. 2. What would be an ideal level of yearly financial support for RSCA?

- 48% need \$5,000 or less
- 79% need \$10,000 or less

Q. 3. What kind of suitable campus space would you like to have for RSCA?

- 67% would only need office space (or no office space)
- 23% would need a lab (incl. those who need outdoor space)
- 10% would need a large room or studio

Q. 4. How often do you use CSU Stanislaus library resources for RSCA?

- 96% use CSU Stanislaus library resources
- 82% use library resources 1-5 hours per week

Q. 5. How essential are CSU Stanislaus library resources for RSCA?

- 85% very helpful to essential
- 15% not very helpful to somewhat helpful

Q. 6. Computing resources available are adequate for RSCA:

- 72.6% agree
- 13.7% neutral
- 13.7% disagree

Q. 7. Access to assistance for proposal development is adequate:

- 35.6% agree
- 35.6% neutral
- 28.8% disagree

Q. 8. Assistance to manage grant or award is adequate:

- 30.5% agree
- 44.1% neutral
- 25.4% disagree

Themes found in individual commentaries

Respondents indicated that they are in the extremely difficult position of navigating between the university's RSCA expectation and their desire to establish strong publication records while simultaneously sustaining heavier and heavier teaching loads. The overwhelming majority of respondents indicated that research productivity could be enhanced with reassigned time. Approximately 40% of respondents included comments and suggestions.

Respondents commented that the assigned time would facilitate research productivity, thereby promoting student/faculty collaborations, publications, and/or presentations. Funding part-time faculty and providing fee waivers to graduate assistants for help with grading could provide needed time for writing. One respondent suggested utilizing internal grants to fund release time. Additionally, release time typically given for university service could be redirected toward research activities.

New faculty members may be having difficulties navigating the grant finding and writing process. Several respondents suggested a one-time course release focused on the grant process, including where to find and how to apply for appropriate grants. Another suggestion was to establish two tenure tracks – teaching and research. Although those who choose the research track would teach less, expectations for research productivity would be higher than for teaching faculty.

Time, Funding, & Space

A majority (74%) need 8 hours or less per week for RSCA. About half of the respondents (48%) need \$5,000 or less per year for RSCA; that amount is roughly equivalent to a university RSCA award. Two thirds of respondents (67%) only need office space for RSCA.

Library Resources

Respondents expressed a very high level of appreciation for library resources: 96% usage; 82% use library resources 1-5 hours per week; 85% ranked library resources as very helpful to essential for RSCA. However, the committee is very interested in gathering more detailed information on library needs and usage in future surveys.

Concluding Comments

Due to the ongoing State and CSU financial crises, working conditions on campus have changed dramatically since the survey was conducted in May/June 2009. Nevertheless, the committee believes that the survey has provided potentially useful information. However, given the low response rate, the committee is looking for ways to refine future survey methodology, especially given the ongoing financial difficulties of the university. In particular, the committee is interested in input* on how to better focus survey methodologies for individual colleges and the library.

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