



To:	Steven Filling, Speaker of the Faculty, 2019-2020
From:	Melanie Martin, Chair, Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Policy Committee (RSCA-PC) 2019-2020
Date:	May 6, 2020
RE:	Annual Report of the RSCA-PC, 2019-2020

Members of this year's Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Policy Committee (RSCAPC) were:

Melanie Martin (Chair)
Huan Gao (Chair-elect)
My Lo Thao (COS)
Dana Nakano (CAHSS)
Christopher Bradshaw (CBA)
Jeffrey Bernard (COEKSW)
Steven Wood (UEPC Rep.)
Debra Bukko (GC Rep.)
Laura Rocco (Library Rep.)
Diana Avalos (Graduate Student Rep-ASI)
Steven Filling (Faculty Speaker)
Joyce Bell (Director, Research and Sponsored Programs)

I would like to start by thanking my fellow committee members for their work this year. Special thanks to Ashley Reeves-Huckaby (ORSP) for the excellent administrative support and Joyce Bell (ORSP) for providing background and insight into system-wide initiatives. In addition, thanks are due to all of the faculty who responded to our survey. Thanks also go to the faculty senate for considering our resolution, and especially to Steven Filling and Minerva Perez who advised and assisted in the process.

RSCAPC spent a substantial portion of our time working to create and present a resolution to the Academic Senate that summarized the work of three prior RSCAPCs. The goals of the resolution are to increase clarity and transparency to the process of awarding RSCA grants. An additional goal is to streamline the Leaves and Awards Committee review process while providing feedback to grant applicants. The genesis of this work was feedback from faculty members that there might be a disparity in RSCA awards to colleges or individuals, or are based on unclear or changing criteria.

Over the course of our discussions about the proposed resolution, the Committee identified three areas that we felt needed broader faculty input: 1) whether to



consider the rank of the applicant in the decision making process, 2) whether to favor proposals that included students in the proposed activities, and 3) what sort of feedback would be appropriate for the Leaves and Awards Committee to give applicants on their proposals. We drafted a survey and presented it to the Academic Senate to clarify the issues and request support in obtaining broad input. We received 121 responses and compiled a report that was presented to the Senate at the first reading of the resolution on April 28, 2020.

Unfortunately, the results of the survey did not indicate a clear path on any of the questions. RSCAPC decided to go ahead with our resolution where no consideration is given for applicant rank, no additional weight is given to projects including students, and LAC feedback would include composite component scores. Our belief is that these choices introduce the least opportunity for bias and subjectivity into the process.

Other RSCAPC business during the 2019-2020 academic year included:

- Discussing how to best define student research in the context of CO initiatives.
- Making a plan to collect data on the range and scope of undergraduate research on campus, applicable university policies, and student research presentation forums.
- Reviewing High Impact Practices (HIPs) relating to student research.
- Determining ways to collect and disseminate information about research on our campus.
- Investigating ways to serve and sustain research on our campus.

RSCAPC formed a sub-committee to explore and document student research on our campus. Their exploration was suspended during the switch to online instruction, but we plan to continue this exploration in the next academic year.

Items deferred until the 2020-2021 academic year include: review of IRB policy and review of RSCA grant award data.