



To:	Steven Filling, Speaker of the Faculty, 2020-2021
From:	Huan Gao, Chair, Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Policy Committee (RSCA-PC) 2020-2021
Date:	Date: May 1, 2021
RE:	Annual Report of the RSCA-PC, 2020-2021

The duties of the Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Policy Committee (RSCA-PC) include engaging in research, scholarship, and creative activity policy development and providing recommendation to the Academic Senate and faculty, coordinating the promotion and support of research, scholarship, and creative activity for students, advocating funding recommendations for faculty research, scholarship, and creative activity, providing advice to administration and support for WASC re-accreditation in areas relevant to research, scholarship, and creative activity, performance, and policy,

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

- Huan Gao, Chair
- Melanie Martin, Chair-Elect
- My Lo Thao, College of Science
- Kimy Liu, College of Education, Kinesiology, and Social Work
- Pi-Sheng Deng, College of Business Administration
- Dana Nakano, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
- Laura Rocco, Library
- Debra Bukko, Graduate Council Representative
- pending, UEPC Representative
- Santos Ayala, Graduate Student Representative, ASI
- Keith Nainby, Speaker of the Faculty
- Joyce Bell, Director, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs



In the 2020-2021 academic year, the Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Policy Committee (RSCA-PC) made significant progress on several discussion items, including the revision of existing UIRB Policy and Procedures, which was approved by the Senate in February 2021, a plan for consideration of resumption of RSCA activities and RSCA-PC subcommittee.

As indicated in the duties of the Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Policy Committee (RSCA-PC), the primary role of the Committee is to engage in research, scholarship, and creative activity policy development. Following updates to the federal regulations governing human subjects research, the University Institutional Review Board (UIRB) has made substantial changes to its policy. This committee carefully reviewed the updated policy and supplemental procedures documents from UIRB and approved the changes after providing constructive recommendations.

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed a tremendous strain on sustaining faculty and student research, scholarship, and creativity. To promote faculty and student research activities amid the pandemic, the Committee reviewed the current plan for consideration of resumption of RSCA activities on campus and in the field. Members agreed that the plan should remain active if the tier system is active in the region. Members also reviewed the average review time for requests with a breakdown of applications by college to ensure that these requests would be processed in a timely manner.

With respect to RSCA-PC subcommittee formed in early spring 2020, its main task is to explore and document student research on campus. While the subcommittee did not make much progress before the campus closure in March 2020, this committee suggests that if a survey is designed in the future, the approach should be as follows; (1) survey individual departments about student research activity (2) disseminate a follow-up survey with actual definitions to collect statistical data.

The committee continued its discussions on some pressing issues from the 2019-2020 academic year and had a clearer vision of what we wanted to do in the next academic year, including how to best define student research in the context of Chancellor's Office Initiatives, making plan to collect data on the range and scope of undergraduate research on campus, creating student research presentation forums, reviewing High Impact Practices (HIPs) relating to student research.



Other RSCA-PC business during the 2020-2021 academic year included:

- I. Feasibility to provide additional RSCA Competition for Spring 2021
- II. Issues with faculty RPT. The RPT calendar has recently changed, and the timeline may be affected.
- III. What are the criteria for determining if a faculty member has experienced caregiver hardships?
- IV. College of Business (COB)– definition of research for accreditation purposes

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all my fellow committee members for their dedicated work during this very challenging year. Special thanks to Ashley Reeves-Huckaby (ORSP) for her excellent administrative support and Joyce Bell (ORSP) for providing statistics on RSCA Award and resumption of RSCA activities, and her insight into system-wide initiatives. Thanks also go to the faculty senate for their long-standing support.