

## RSCAPC 2016-17 Year-End Report (draft)

In response to one of the recommendations made last year, the RSCAPC's discussions during AY 2016-17 have centered on RSCA policy/procedures. More specifically, the committee focused on the equity of the policy/procedures for awarding RSCA grants, including faculty representation on LAC.

The committee's review of available data regarding RSCA grant distribution among the university's colleges over the previous 4 years (AY 2013-2017) proved inconclusive. However, as a result of its analyses, the committee did discern that a significant percentage of RSCA grant proposals received during this period were rejected because they did not comply (DNC) with application criteria. As a consequence, the RSCAPC tentatively agreed that it should recommend ways of reducing the number of DNC's in the future. The committee agreed that the LAC might do so by providing rejected applicants with a checklist specifying the reason(s) for disqualification. Although the committee concurred that that checklist should align with RSCA application criteria, additional discussion will be necessary before it can articulate its recommendation with precision.

In addition to its tentative recommendation that rejected RSCA applications include a checklist, the RSCAPC also considered a number of other possible RSCA application criteria revisions that might contribute to a more equitable distribution. Thus far, suggested revisions include the following: employing alternatives to criteria that include the disciplinary biases associated with "methodology" and related terms, incorporating grant language more relevant to the humanities, including that currently utilized by the NEH; creating two tracks for applicants to select depending on their project parameters—either methods/techniques for science disciplines, or creative approach for humanities/arts; inserting language germane to the arts, including that presently used by the NEA; adding a criterion that prioritizes junior faculty; necessitating that student involvement be defined in the assessment criteria such that it does not disadvantage proposals that do not include students; and requiring that students actively collaborate in the creation of new knowledge and that their role be specified.

Finally, the committee discussed the current composition of the LAC, especially as it relates to faculty representation from the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (CAHSS). In terms of the number of faculty, members of the committee observed that the CAHSS is significantly larger than most of the other colleges. Consequently, the committee was in favor of recommending that the CAHSS be given an additional representative to ensure equitable representation on the LAC. In particular, the committee tentatively supported revising constitutional language that allots the CAHSS two representatives on the LAC; one from social sciences, and one from arts/humanities.

While the RSCAPC made significant progress with respect to the above RSCA policy/procedure discussions, none of its tentative recommendations have yet been finalized and/or communicated through the appropriate faculty governance channels.