



12-11-2009

Research Council Meeting : 2009 : 12 : 11

Research Council

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/fac_senate_council_research

Scholar Commons Citation

Research Council, "Research Council Meeting : 2009 : 12 : 11" (2009). *USF St. Petersburg Faculty Senate Council: Research*. 6.

https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/fac_senate_council_research/6

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by the USF St. Petersburg Faculty Senate Councils and Committees at Scholar Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in USF St. Petersburg Faculty Senate Council: Research by an authorized administrator of Scholar Commons. For more information, please contact scholarcommons@usf.edu.

USFSP Faculty Research Council Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2009, 10:00 am, COQ 201

Present: Jim Fellows, Alex Brice, Cynthia Leung, Michiko Otsuki, Deb Henry, Todd Shank, Patricia Scott (Academic Affairs)
Regrets: Charlie Vanover
Guests: Malcolm Butler, Faculty Senate liaison

Meeting was called to order at 10:06. Minutes from November meeting were approved via email.

New RC Chair: Todd Shank (COB)

Cynthia began the meeting with a description of the charge of the Council and the responsibilities of the Chair for in-coming Chair, Todd Shank. The Council is charged with promoting all research activities here on campus. Cynthia described her involvement and that of other council members in such functions as the USFSP Research Month, acting as a judge in research competitions, leading research panel discussions, as well as reviewing any research-related policies and guidelines created by USFSP or the USF System.

Promoting research activities:

As no internal awards were offered this year, the Council discussed a variety of ideas to assist researchers in others ways (not listed in any order of significance):

1) **One course payment per semester** for research assistants to faculty - In lieu of a salary, a student assisting in a research study might receive reimbursement in the form of free tuition for one course. Todd Shank reiterated how large a need there is for research assistants. This program needs to be fleshed out more. The process should include a competitive application process in which the Research Council could play a role. Assistantships could be divided between undergraduates, graduates and honor students, with the number going to each college considered in the process as well.

Action: Pat Scott will talk to Dr. Noonan about the idea.

2) Pat Scott continues to sponsor **Research Orientation Day** for new faculty, which provides an opportunity to survey research needs of new faculty.

3) Michiko suggested forming **focus groups** to survey research needs of both junior and senior researcher. Needs may vary considerably and pinpointing specifics would help the Council and the campus pursue options more effectively.

4) Malcolm shared details about **“research / writing” retreats** offered by his former institution. The purpose was to provide participants with the opportunity to discuss and/or seek advice about their current research projects or papers-in-progress with colleagues in an environment away from daily interruptions. The ultimate goal was to afford participants time to make substantial progress on a particular project; move “further down the pipeline” as Dr. Butler described. Retreats were conducted at a comfortable off-campus site and included an overnight. Support came from both the administration and from departments with participating faculty. Time was provided for both interaction with others as well as personal time for writing. Participation was competitive; applicants had to submit a focused proposal or demonstrated need. The retreats were planned and facilitated by senior faculty; participants (usually ~ 20) were divided into smaller groups consisting of faculty from complementary disciplines to maximize successful exchange. In order for the retreat to be successful, faculty had to be committed to the program and demonstrate real progress on their project.

The Council was very interested in this idea. Discussion followed about logistical factors and possible ways to fund this activity. Michiko suggested that this idea could be discussed with faculty focus groups.

Motion by Jim Fellows: USFSP shall establish a weekend research retreat for faculty at a local venue.

Alex Brice seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Action: Pat Scott offered to gather more details from contacts provided by Malcolm (such as planning, financing, place/space, facilitating, agenda for the event, recognition of participation, application criteria and process, benefits, marketing, etc.). She will then bring this information to the next Council meeting so that a formal proposal may be prepared.

5) Alex Brice reinforced the need for a **Faculty Research Network** of researchers and their interests and skills as stated in the strategic plan. Available to all faculty, this database would have many benefits. Cynthia shared a grant writing experience in which case having a list of experienced researchers could have helped considerably in ensuring the success of the grant application. Pat Scott received training on how to establish this network and reported that the project is proceeding on schedule.

6) **Student Poster Sessions** – Pat has developed a handbook consisting of detailed, practical information for students undertaking these activities. Pat presents lectures to classes or works on a one-on-one basis. She reported that Dr. Noonan agreed to pay for the printing of posters for students who go through the training.

7) **Research Month (2010)** – Jim Fellows asked for more information about this event. The chair of the RC serves on the planning committee with Pat Scott, Pat White and Sudsy Tschiderer. The committee is hard at work on activities. Some Research Council members may be asked to serve as judges during some of the research expos.

8) Additional strategic Plan items:

Undergraduate publication –Alex shared information about a similar UCF refereed electronic publication. Content for the publication could include student poster sessions, applicable panel discussion events from research month activities, etc.

Research Forums – Council still feels that promoting communication with various outside agencies and organizations is a reasonable plan.

9) **Dialogues with Dr. Noonan** – Faculty would discuss their research with Dr. Noonan during informal sessions.

Other business:

Todd Shank recognized out-going chair Cynthia Leung's leadership on the council. He thanked her for all the time and efforts she contributed to Council business; promoting the importance of the Research Council to the USFSP administration and faculty. He and the members of the Council wish her well, and good luck, as she prepares to take her sabbatical this spring.

Pat announced that the new USFSP research web site will be available sometimes in January, 2010.

Future meetings:

Friday mornings at 10 AM remain a good day and time for council members. The following dates have been reserved for the COQ conference room: January 22, February 19, March 26

Motion to adjourn made by Jim Fellows and seconded by Alex Brice. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted:

Deb Henry
Council Secretary