



1-1-2008

## Research Council Annual Report : 2007-2008

Research Council

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USF St. Petersburg Faculty Research Council  
Cynthia Leung, Chair  
Report to Faculty Senate for Academic Year 2007-2008  
April 25, 2008

Members for 2007-2008:

Dr. Kathy Weedman Arthur, College of Arts & Sciences (2007-2009)  
Dr. Barnali Dixon, College of Arts & Sciences (2007-2009)  
Dr. Lyman Dukes, College of Education (2007-2009)  
Dr. Cynthia Leung, College of Education, Chair (2007-2009)  
Dr. Wei Guan, College of Business (2006-2008)  
Dr. Richard Smith, College of Business (2007-2009)  
Dr. Patricia Pettijohn, Nelson Poynter Memorial Library (2006-2008)  
Dr. Bob Dardenne, Ex-Officio, Academic Affairs (2007-2008)

Membership of the Council: Two representatives from each of the 3 Colleges, 1 representative from the Library, and an ex-officio member representing Academic Affairs

Dates of meetings:

October 15, 2007  
November 26, 2007  
March 19, 2008  
April 10, 2008

Committee Activity:

- During the academic year 2006-2007, the Research council made recommendations for improving the USFSP internal award cycle. The following recommendations were made for the 2007-2008 award process:
  - New funding cycle: January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008
  - Increase the maximum funding amount to exceed the current \$6,500
  - Awards may allocate 100% towards faculty summer salary
  - One application for SIG and NIRG and guidelines adopted modifying the process
- The Research Council served as the review panel for USFSP Internal Awards selection – Met on Monday, November 26, 2007 to review 12 applications. Of the 12, 8 were recommended for funding. Because of budget issues, only the top three applicants were awarded.
- Bob Dardenne brought to the attention of the Research Council a proposal discussed at the Research Management Council of the USF System. The Research Council responded to the Schneider and Carlucci Plan to rank grants and possibly prevent faculty from applying for certain types of grants. We refer to this proposal as the “good” vs. “bad” grants proposal. The proposal

surfaced because the Research Management Council was concerned that some grants did not advance scholarship and would not result in a clear advantage or benefit to the university. USFSP's Research Council discussed the issue and drafted a response addressing categorizing and ranking grants on a sliding scale. The Research Council was especially concerned that such a ranking would infringe on faculty's academic freedom, and faculty in some fields would be at a disadvantage when seeking support for their research. The proposed policy change was withdrawn from consideration.

- The Research Council was represented on the Planning Committee for USFSP's First Research Month and promoted the month's research events. Events included a Panel Discussion on Undergraduate Student Research, a Faculty Research Symposium, and a Women's Research Discussion.
- The Chair surveyed faculty needs based on funding requests for the most recent internal awards cycle. Requests included: faculty student research assistants (The possibility of using work study students as research assistants came up.) and technology, such as software or computers (possible placement of discarded equipment) for student researchers. The Research Council discussed ways to help faculty in these areas. A plan will be drafted this summer to follow-up on faculty requests for assistance in the identified areas.
- Homeland Security Reporting Requirements were followed to distribute information to individuals on campus whose areas may contain chemicals of interest to the DHS.
- The Research Council served as the Selection Committee for the Chancellor's Faculty Research Award and narrowed the number of applicants to present to the Academic Awards and Misconduct Committee.
- The Chair, Cynthia Leung, co-facilitated the Campus Strategic Planning Luncheon Discussion on Research: USFSP Strategic Planning Dialogue, Monday, April 21, 2008. The Research Council recommended that the Strategic Planning Committee hold a discussion to focus specifically on faculty research. This suggestion was followed through and Dean Biafora graciously agreed to the need for such a dialogue.
- Identified established strengths of Signature Research Areas in Academic Affairs for a USF System research survey, April 25, 2008.