Research Programs and Policies Committee

Annual Report 2014-15

The Research Programs and Policies Committee (RPPC) did not meet this year. The focus of the committee in recent years has been on distributing small research grants and it had been understood that there were no funds available.

At the end of the spring semester, the Faculty Senate Steering Committee (FSSC) revised the charge for the RPPC to encompass a more explicit focus on the university's research enterprise broadly defined. It was felt that this new charge will result in a far more effective committee and represent a more compelling opportunity for faculty to provide meaningful and important service to the university. The new charge follows this report.

RPPC is supposed to have ten members; there are currently only six. Members include:

Elected:
Mahmut Safak, TUSM, 2-6338, mahmut.safak@temple.edu, '17
Tim McDonald, TYL, tim.mcd@temple.edu, '17
Prasun Datta, TUSM, 2-4938, prasun.datta@temple.edu, '18
Joseph Picone, ENGR, 1-4841, picone@temple.edu, '18**

Appointed:
Barbara Hoffman, TUSM, 2-6902, hoffman@temple.edu, '18**
Wenhui Hu, TUSM, whu@temple.edu, '15

A call will go out for new members in early September. The FSSC would welcome recommendations for potential candidates. The committee will need to elect a chair in the fall and prepare an agenda for review by the FSSC.

The RPPC will also need to organize a solicitation for the distribution of research grants. The Faculty Senate was not aware until recently that $50,000 had in fact been allocated for distribution this year. We have confirmed that these funds will carry over to next year and we can expect comparable funding for the next fiscal year. The RPPC will need to work with Michele Masucci, Vice Provost for Research, in developing a call for proposals.

Report prepared by
Deborah Howe
Faculty Senate Vice President 2014-15
The Research Programs and Policies Committee (RPPC) shall ensure an active faculty role in the formulation and evaluation of research policies. The Committee is charged with promoting faculty research and scholarly activities and advising university administration and the Faculty Senate on research policies. The committee is also called upon to assist in the dissemination of policies and guidelines ensuring implementation is consistent and clearly communicated to the broader university research community.

The RPPC shall work with university administrators to:

1. Examine various aspects of research and other scholarly activities with the intent of improving the climate for these activities at the university, improving the efficiency of research administration, articulating faculty vision on research issues and representing the faculty voice.

2. Serve as the primary committee for faculty to inform the administration of any obstacles to the faculty to engage in research and other scholarly activities.

3. Examine and assess the performance and responsiveness of the various units within the university that affect and support the research enterprise.

4. Determine the availability of resources and incentives available on campus for faculty research, creative, and professional activities, and make this information available to the broader research community.

5. Evaluate applications for University funds to support faculty and graduate student research and creative activity through the establishment of subcommittees, if necessary, for different disciplinary areas and recommend allocations of funds.

The committee shall provide an annual written report of its activities to the President of the Faculty Senate.

(approved by FSSC April 28, 2015)