Norman Campus Research Council  
2014-2015 Annual Report to the Faculty Senate  
Submitted by Susan Schroeder, Chair

Membership

The members of the 2014-2015 Research Council, their departments and terms:

- Sheena Murphy  
  Physics/Astronomy  
  2012-15
- Susan Schroeder *  
  Microbiology & Plant Biology  
  2012-15
- Debra Bemben  
  Health & Exercise Science  
  2014-15
- Pamela Genova  
  Modern Languages Literatures & Linguistics  
  2014-15
- Lina Ortega  
  University Libraries  
  2014-15
- Douglas Gaffin  
  Biology  
  2013-16
- Cecil Lewis  
  Anthropology  
  2013-16
- Jennifer Saltzstein  
  Music  
  2013-16
- Jane Wickersham**  
  History  
  2013-16
- Kendra Williams-Diehm  
  Educational Psychology  
  2013-16
- Michael Ashby  
  Chemistry/Biochemistry  
  2014-17
- Sesh Commuri  
  Electrical & Computer Engineering  
  2014-17
- Eugene Enrico  
  Music  
  2014-17
- Nicholas Harm  
  Architecture  
  2014-17
- Ronald Schleifer  
  English  
  2014-17

Ex-Officio Members:
- Kelvin Droegemeier  
  Vice President for Research
- Alicia Knoedler  
  Associate Vice President for Research, and Director of the  
  Center for Research Program Development & Enrichment

Secretary:
- Susan Dubbs  
  Center for Research Program Development & Enrichment

* Professor Susan Schroeder joined the Council in August 2013 to complete the term for Bing Zhang.

Professors Murphy, Schroeder, Bemben, Genova, and Ortega completed their terms at the end of the 2014-2015 academic year. **The 2015-2016 Chair of the Research Council was elected at the April 2015 meeting and will be Dr. Jane Wickersham, Department of History.

The Faculty Senate Appointments to replace Sheena Murphy, Susan Schroeder, Debra Bemben, and Lina Ortega, and the Presidential Appointment to replace Pamela Genova will be forthcoming.

In 2013, the Faculty Senate approved a plan to balance the Research Council membership to reflect the disciplines represented by recent patterns among submitted proposals. The new structure for the Research Council began in 2014-2015, and is as follows:

- Engineering, Energy, Mathematical and Physical Sciences (3 members): Sheena Murphy, Michael Ashby, and Sesh Commuri
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 members): Debra Bemben, Cecil Lewis, and Kendra Williams-Diehm
- Life Sciences (2 members): Susan Schroeder and Douglas Gaffin
- Humanities (3 members): Pamela Genova, Jane Wickersham, and Ronald Schleifer
- Education/Professional/Other (2 members): Lina Ortega and Nicholas Harm
- Fine Arts (2 members): Jennifer Saltzstein and Eugene Enrico

Activities (2014-2015)

The primary activity of the Research Council during the 2014-2015 academic year was to advise and make recommendations to the Vice President for Research (VPR) pertaining to awards and honors under his administration, namely
• Faculty Investment Program (Up to $15,000)
• Junior Faculty Fellowships ($7,000 + Fringe)
• VPR Awards Program (3 awards of $2,500 each)
• George Lynn Cross Research Professorship (recommendation to President)
• Henry Daniel Rinsland Memorial Award for Excellence in Educational Research

A summary of the Research Council funding and award recommendations approved by the VPR for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 will be available on the Research Council’s website. Statistics concerning the programs supported by the Research Council as of May 31, 2015 are attached.

The Research Council devoted much time and discussion to funding programs, award nominations and additional issues.

• Faculty Investment Program (FIP) – The Faculty Investment Program provides funding on a competitive basis to develop and expand the scholarly (i.e., research and creative) activities of Norman campus researchers, including researchers associated with Norman Campus Programs at OU-Tulsa. The FIP is designed to provide maximum flexibility in meeting researcher needs via strategic investment of funds with a high degree of expectation and accountability. Ultimately, FIP is expected to enhance the national and international reputation of the University of Oklahoma via excellence in scholarship. The goal of obtaining external funding is not a requirement, but proposals are carefully evaluated for the contribution they make to a faculty member’s program of research, scholarship, or creative activity. The maximum award under the FIP is $15,000, and proposals are welcome in any amount up to the maximum. During fiscal year 2015, there were 36 FIP requests submitted to the Research Council, and 19 awards were funded for a total of $242,377 (an additional FIP award for $15,000 is pending a final decision).

• The Council discussed how to handle summer salary in future FIP funding requests. The Council does feel that strong justification is needed whenever summer salary is requested and has recommended introducing a $5000 cap on the amount of the FIP budget that may be allocated for faculty summer salary.

• There were 20 fewer FIP submissions than the previous year. The Council has expressed concern regarding the declining number of FIP submissions and would like to understand the reasons for this decrease. On the other hand, the number of JFF proposals increased by 19.

• Junior Faculty Fellowship Program – This program is designed to help new tenure-track faculty members establish their research/creative activity and make progress toward tenure by providing support in areas critical to the development of their programs. The program is restricted to tenure-track assistant professors who are in the first four years of their tenure-track position at the University. As a general rule, the $7,000 (plus fringe benefits) awards are used as summer (June and July) stipends to enable faculty members to carry out full time research during that period. However, the awards are not limited to summer stipends, and faculty members are urged to use the awards in a manner that provides maximum benefit to their research programs. This might include supplies, equipment, personnel and travel. A faculty member receiving an award is expected to make a one-month commitment to research during the summer. Faculty members who have not acquired a terminal degree by the deadline for application, associate and full professors, instructors, and visiting appointees are not eligible for this program. Also, because of the limited number of available awards, faculty cannot receive an award in consecutive years, and faculty who have other sources of summer salary support receive lower priority. In February 2015, 21 proposals were selected from 66 submissions to receive Junior Faculty Fellowships. Most requested the funds to be used for salary; however, there were a few faculty that submitted budgets that included supplies, resulting in differing award amounts. The amounts ranged from $7,000 to $9,338 and the total funding amount for the program was $182,720.

• The Council reviewed nominations and made recommendations to the Provost for the George Lynn Cross Research Professorship and the Henry Daniel Rinsland Memorial Award for Excellence in Educational Research. They also made recommendations to the VPR for the VPR Outstanding Research Impact Award and the VPR Outstanding Research Engagement Award.
The Council recommended the following faculty for recognition of their success and accomplishments: Professor Chaunbin Mao for the George Lynn Cross Research Professorship, Professor Xun Ge for the Rinsland Award, Professor Matthew Jensen for the VPR Award for Outstanding Research Engagement, and Professor Richard Broughton and Professor Chitru Fernando for the VPR Award for Outstanding Research Impact. The Vice President for Research will be re-evaluating the awards for research impact and research engagement.

During the summer of 2015, the Research Council will also be revising the FIP and JFF guidelines to clarify various parts of the proposal process.

On behalf of the Research Council, the Chair would like to thank Vice President for Research, Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier, for his enthusiasm, energetic leadership and unique vision in reshaping the research landscape at the University of Oklahoma. The Research Council also thanks Dr. Alicia Knoedler, Associate Vice President for Research and Director of the Center for Research Program Development & Enrichment, for her efforts on behalf of the Council and for her support of the OU faculty in their efforts to produce quality research and creative activity. At the May meeting, the Vice President for Research presented the outgoing members Sheena Murphy (served 2012-2015), Susan Schroeder (served 2013-2015), Debra Bemben (served 2014-2015), Lina Ortega (served 2014-2015), and Pamela Genova (served 2014-2015) with clocks to show their appreciation for the members’ service.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Number of Proposals Submitted</th>
<th>Number of Awards</th>
<th>Average Award</th>
<th>Funding Rate</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Program Expenditures</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Number Awarded</th>
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<th>Percentage of Total Number Awarded</th>
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<td>JFF Budget Allocation</td>
<td>VPR Awards Budget Allocation</td>
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<td>FIP Funding Awarded</td>
<td>JFF Funding Awarded</td>
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* An additional FIP award for $15,000 is pending a final decision.