

Minutes
Research, Scholarship, and Creative Expression Council Meeting
April 1, 2022 – 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Present: Chair Nick Hirshon (COAC), Tom Fallace (COE), Jan Pinkston (Professional Staff Rep), Babita Srivastava (CCOB), David Williams (Library), Kate Boschert, Christine Bravo (OSP) **Absent:** Debbie Mohammed (COSH), Richard Huizar (COHSS), Andrey Kretinin (CCOB)

1) Approval of meeting minutes

The minutes from the March 4 meeting were approved unanimously.

2) Student Research Incentives

N. Hirshon reviewed the previous discussion, and inquired about recommending capstone projects. T. Fallace asked if research methods classes overlap with methodology courses, neither of which necessarily result in capstone projects. With the curriculum due to be revisited, undergraduate research requirements could be developed and included. Regardless, faculty-student research collaborations, another desirable objective, are not often produced by capstone projects. Additionally, increasing class enrollment caps could negatively impact research-oriented classes.

J. Pinkston discussed the one-credit Honors classes focused around student-faculty research collaboration. A pilot program running over the past three years, recent outcomes included poster sessions. The program is successful but very labor intensive. T. Fallace observed that increasing the course to three credit hours will attract more faculty participation, but this type of class will only reach a limited number of students, mostly with advanced research skills.

N. Hirshon observed that some graduate programs lack a thesis committee, leaving the program director responsible for all thesis advising. T. Fallace noted that other programs incorporate the thesis requirement into a dedicated class.

N. Hirshon inquired about incentives for student research. What is available besides the current Explorations event offerings? D. Williams mentioned an undergraduate research conference taking place at Felician University, which emphasizes student work and includes participants from outside of their campus community. N. Hirshon considered that involving regional high school students could also be beneficial. D. Williams reiterated that hosting a student-oriented online open journal will provide a permanent showcase for student work that can be included in portfolios and résumés. N. Hirshon suggested that funding student conference travel would be a great incentive, especially if the reimbursement process is streamlined. If available conferences cover a wide variety of locations outside of the immediate region this could attract even greater participation. K. Boschert offered that it might be possible to allocate college and departmental purchasing funds toward such an initiative.

J. Pinkston noted that awards for student work are not distributed at Explorations events. Creating a student research award won't necessarily result in more submissions, but could contribute toward a culture of student achievement and recognition. N. Hirshon suggested that live-streaming and social media promotion would enhance the profile of awards-related events.

3) Next Steps

N. Hirshon will compile a final report containing the Council's recommendations to the Senate. An additional, final meeting may not be necessary, unless requested. T. Fallace asked that, moving forward, some consideration and feedback on the Council's reporting be provided by the Senate.

D. Williams made motion to adjourn meeting. N. Hirshon seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Williams