

Research Committee

April 27, 2017

Chair: Johan Eliasson, Political Science

Background: A confluence of disparate developments meant that by the start of the fall 2016 semester the majority of members of the committee had left the university or decided to change committee assignments. Several changes to the rules governing Senate committees were adopted in the fall of 2016, while extensive attempts were made to recruit new members to this committee. There are now seven members. We met the first time on January 31st, then April 4th, to discuss how to proceed in collecting information on the progress across the university in implementing the ESU Research Plan (developed by this committee and adopted by the Senate in May 2015). We conveyed an update to the ESU senate on April 3rd, and a report May 1st, 2017.

Members: Johan Eliasson (Political Science), Wendy Dietrich (Athletic Training); Kelly Boyd (Health Studies, IRB); Christina McDonald (OSPR); Thomas Laduke (Biology); William Bajor (Graduate School); Caroline DiPipi-Hoy (Special Education).

Assessment of progress on EU's Research Plan: Overall there has been substantial progress on achieving the goals set out in the plan. However, there are some remaining weaknesses. There are few externally funded centers, the OSPR remains understaffed, the peer-mentoring system is none existent (recommended for deletion in an updated research plan), the President's Research Fund remains dormant (revival subject to the president's approval), and there is no undergraduate research journal. The research plan should be revised in conjunction with the revised Strategic Plan for 2015-2018.

Goal 1 Embrace high-quality research, scholarship, and creative activity as an integral part of ESU's mission.

Points one and two were inserted to ensure language compatible with the CBA, and are not measurable. Point three deals with ways to recognize and celebration publications. Research is now promoted by offering internal and external grant opportunities, visibility in the *Annual Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities* booklet and recognition luncheon held annually, the Provost's Colloquium Series, and other OSPR sponsored research presentation events, i.e. Firecracker. The OSPR website also highlights research, by spotlighting grant recipients. OSPR, in conjunction with SITE, is also in the process of creating a research infrastructure for web presence.

Goal 2 Support research, scholarship, and creative activity across ESU...

Under resources. There are FDR Interdisciplinary Incentive Grants which encourage cross-disciplinary research at ESU. In 2016 ESU also received an S-STEM grant, which supports the university in increasing STEM enrollment. The FDR Major Leveraging Grant and the FDR Interdisciplinary Incentive Grant are tools to leverage external resources, and the FDR mini-grants are also sustained. The total number of academic (research) graduate assistant positions (funded by the Graduate College or departments) for fall 2016 was 51 (up from 47 the previous

year), spread across 16 departments. The Provost increased FDR funding from the \$60,000 that was in place the 2014-15 FY to \$70,000 for each of the 2015-16 and 2016-17 FYs.

Under infrastructure.

The Office of Sponsored Projects and Research (OSPR) has been aligned and working under the office of the Provost since September 2016. OSPR is officially part of academic affairs. Its director meets regularly with the Provost to discuss research, grants and related matters, and also attends the Provost's Leadership Team monthly meetings. Currently, the OSPR has two staff members, a director (Christina McDonald) and a pre- post- grant project coordinator (Sarah Weber). OSPR is also supported by a part time graduate student. A Grant and Compliance Accountant also works with the OSPR, although officially this position is in the Business Office. The IRB is recommended by Provost to President for appointment. Members are given 3 year terms and can have consecutive terms. Due to the nature of the responsibilities there are no term limits.

Information about IACUC and doing research with animals through ESU can be found on the ESU website on the Provost's page and can be accessed quickly by pulling down the ESU A-Z menu and searching under I for Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. All forms are available on the website. All person's wishing to use vertebrate animals for research purposes must undertake a training process which can be accessed through the webpage and must fill out a form that describes the nature of the research and how the animals will be used. The current members of the committee are listed on the website, and include a Chair, a community representative and a veterinarian. The remaining representatives are scientists from various departments on campus and all have experience with animal care and study.

OSPR is our research office and it supports faculty in securing and executing grants. It organizes an annual awards luncheon and booklet to highlight ESU recipients of grants. There is an annual book author reception in the library, showcasing faculty publications over the preceding 12 months. The OSPR website is in excellent shape, and includes guidelines and policies that a faculty member can follow. The OSPR has subscribed the *GRANT FORWARD*, a grant database for over two years, since March 2015. In addition, the Kemp library has housed the Foundation Center Database for years, which is also a searchable database for grant opportunities.

Under Professional Development

Institutionalize the peer-mentoring model for publications support. This is not in place and the research committee recommends its deletion in an updated research plan. Last year, 2015-16, OSPR gave its own new faculty welcome workshop in the fall. In 2016-17 OSPR was included in a larger, new faculty orientation program and presented to new faculty on February 2 as part of the year-long new faculty orientation set up by the Goal 2 Strategic Plan Implementation Group and now run by CETL. OSPR has given a number of grant-related workshops since the new OSPR leadership came into place January 2014. Some were focused on FDR, some on federal grants. The OSPR has plans to provide more support workshops related to grant writing. Information about policies for IRB and IACUC compliance will be incorporated into the year freshman faculty orientation process led by CETL in 2017-18. There is now an OSPR Quick

Reference Guidelines dealing with research issues and specific procedural information on the OSPR website.

Under promotion: There is an annual recognition luncheon to recognize ESU research, scholarship, and creative activity. OSPR working with the new Scholarship, Innovation, Teaching and Entrepreneurship (SITE) center to create a research-focused website to promote ESU research, scholarship, and creative activity, and also to link various data bases and other tools conducive to research, scholarship, and creative activity

Goal 3 interdisciplinary research at ESU...

The OSPR hosted two speed networking events, in Yr 14-15, and Yr 15-16 to foster interdisciplinary dialogue. The event in Yr 16-17 was canceled due to the strike. Getting faculty to participate in such events is a challenge. That said, the 2016 NSF STEM grant is a good example of interdisciplinary research at ESU.

Goal 4 Strengthen and develop linkages between faculty research expertise and regional economic, artistic, cultural, intellectual, social, health and scientific needs and demands.

The Institute for Public Health Research and Innovation (IPHRI) has received numerous external awards which drive its work.

Goal 5 Promote and enhance research and scholarly activities that provide transformative experiences for undergraduate and graduate students.

There is an annual undergraduate research symposium, and the OSPR, in conjunction with Office of the Provost, will explore how to support undergraduate research summer program at ESU beginning in 2017.