RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP COUNCIL
YEAR-END SUMMARY
2012-2013 Academic Year

Membership of the Research & Scholarship Council for the 2012-13 Academic Year:

David Gilley	College of Science & Health (Chair)	(2nd Year)
Sandra Alon	College of Education	(3rd Year)
Jorge Arevalo	College of Business	(2nd Year)
Jane Bambrick	Library	(1st Year)
Sheetal Ranjan	College of Humanities and Social Science (Co-Chair)	(3rd Year)
Robin Schwartz	College of Arts & Communication	(2nd Year)
Susan Sgro	Professional Staff	(4th Year)
Martin Williams	Co-Administrative Liaison	
Lourdes Bastas	Co-Administrative Liaison	

Overview

The members of the Research and Scholarship Council worked to address the Senate's new and standing charges this year by holding nine council meetings (9/13, 10/11, 11/13, 12/13, 1/29, 2/19, 3/7, 3/28, 4/16), participating in the strategic planning implementation process, meeting with college and university administrators to plan and promote Research & Scholarship Day, and by volunteering their time to help execute this yearly event. A brief summary of the Council's progress toward fulfilling each of its charges follows. For details, please see the approved minutes of the Council's meetings and supporting documents previously submitted to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

Summary of Charges and Progress

2012-13 Charge 1: **Review strategic plan and determine how the Council can align itself and work with the implementation teams**

The SRSC chair served as a faculty representative on Strategic Plan Implementation Team 1D ("Recruit develop and retain a diverse faculty dedicated to fulfilling the University's mission and achieving its new vision"), attending all meetings of the SPI team and serving as a liaison between the SRSC and the SPI team. The council discussed issues of scholarship relating to this strategic goal (namely the sub-goal: "strengthen the research culture on campus through improved research incentives for both junior and senior faculty; give greater recognition for published research and recognized creative work; and provide summer support for creating knowledge"). These discussions were summarized in documents presented by the SRSC Chair to the SPI Team (included in minutes of this Council), and integrated into discussions of the SPI Team to the best of the Chair's ability as the only faculty representative. The SRSC offered itself at the disposal of the SPI Team, especially as a source of information about faculty needs with regards to research and scholarship. The SRSC strongly recommends to the Senate to proactively engage this SPI Team during the 2013-2014 academic year to ensure that faculty input is included as the Team's plans develop.

2012-13 Charge 2: *Research and Scholarship Day: how to increase number of participants and attendees (faculty and students), and analysis of data from survey completed in 2011*

This is an ongoing issue with the Research and Scholarship Day event and is discussed by the SRSC each year. But this year, as the SRSC reconsiders the event in light of the strategic plan and the University's new vision, the issues of participation and attendance are of renewed importance. We believe that for R&S Day to be a vital event, firmly entrenched in the University's culture, its articulation with the University's mission needs to be obvious and all levels of the University administration need to "buy-in" to the event. With this is mind, the SRSC chair met with the University's Dean's Council to highlight the event's relevance to the university's mission (e.g. showcasing faculty as teacher/scholars working interdependently with student learners/scholars), remind college-level administration of their important role in the success of the event (the college common-hour sessions were identified by the SRSC as key parts of the event and in need of attention for 2013) and to encourage student involvement as both (co)participants and attendees. A report on this meeting was included in the Council minutes from Feb 19. The SRSC's college representatives also put extra effort this year into communicating with college deans about the planning of each college's session. These efforts seem to have paid off, as the common hour session (college-sponsored as well as the communal poster session) was perhaps the most vital in years and total participation was significantly greater than last year (see table 1). The SRSC recommends continued pressure on college administration to take an active role in planning, encouraging participation in, and themselves participating in R&S Day (e.g., a dean touring around the talk sessions encouraged quality and heightened morale among presenters). With regards to the survey referred to in the charges above, the Council wishes to note that this survey is from 2010-2011, and since its conclusions have already been discussed by previous year's Council's, we did not address it this year.

Table 1. Research and Scholarship Day Participation

	2003	2004	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Talks	50	44	42	37	36	40	43	67	42	61
Posters	0	23	32	7	13	14	29	26	33	37
Total Presentations	**50**	**67**	**74**	**44**	**49**	**54**	**72**	**93**	**75**	**98**
Total Presenters									**149**	**>250**

2012-13 Charge 3: *Searchable database of faculty research interests (develop internally or purchase appropriate software)*

The SRSC considered at least two programs to address this charge, Digital Measures Activity Insight and the COS PIVOT portal software. The library has already purchased PIVOT and is engaged in promoting and training faculty in its use. As PIVOT was judged by the SRSC to have all the functionality necessary to maintain a database of faculty research, it seemed difficult to justify purchase of any other software. The success of PIVOT as a database of research and scholarship will depend upon faculty participation. The SRSC recommends to the Senate to support such participation by all university faculty.

Standing Charge 1: **Promote Faculty, Librarian, Professional Staff, and Adjunct Faculty scholarship; identify, on an ongoing basis, current and anticipated faculty, librarian, professional staff and adjunct faculty needs with regard to scholarship and research and recommend strategies designed to meet those needs.**

This charge was addressed under 2012-13 Charge #1, above.

Recommendations for future charges:
Quantitative data about the status of faculty needs for scholarship would help strengthen the faculty voice in strategic planning. The SRSC could be given specific charges to survey current faculty needs in areas highlighted by informal 2012 survey (e.g., summer funding of scholarship for both faculty and students, see last year's final report) and in areas brought up in SRSC recommendations to the SPI Team (e.g., incentives for external funding, see document to SPI team in SRSC minutes).

Standing Charge 2: **Support the continued efforts to build academic research networks on and beyond the William Paterson campus**

This charge was addressed under 2012-13 Charge #2, and 2012-13 Charge #3, above. Research and Scholarship Day was held April 4, 2013, and the COS PIVOT platform was adopted by the Library.

Recommendations for future charges:
Institutionalizing some of the successes of this year's R&S Day would ensure that the event continues incremental improvement. SRSC College representatives could be given the specific charge to work with their College administration *from an early date* to develop a *long-term* plan for R&S Day. Representatives should avoid simply taking over these responsibilities themselves, as this *discourages* the "buy-in" we are attempting to achieve.

Standing Charge 3: **Review, yearly and as needed, the policies, procedures, and guidelines for each of the following: a. Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects, b. Scientific and Academic Fraud and Misconduct, c. Assigned Research Time Application and Selection.**

Most of the documents included under this charge were reviewed by the SRSC in the previous year and as there were neither any policy changes that called for updates nor significant change in membership of the Council, we did not review them again. The Council did approve an updated certification process for students involved in human-subjects research. This consists of a set of online CITI course modules and is meant as an optional alternative to the current certification process, which is designed for faculty and staff.

Recommendations for future charges:
We are not aware of any impending policy changes that require issuing a specific charge in relation to this standing charge. However, the Council does seek clarification on their role in reviewing ART policies, as these policies are determined by agreement between the University and the AFT Union. If the SRSC has no jurisdiction over these policies, then review of this document should perhaps be removed from the Council's charges.