

Council on Research
Report to the University Senate
Wednesday May 4 2022
Brian Rose, CoR Chair 2021-22

- The Council on Research met on 4/27/2022.
- A subcommittee reviewed applications for the Spring semester round of Benevolent awards (small research grants for graduate students). CoR voted to approve the subcommittee's recommendations, which will be forward to the VPRED's office.
- Four policy issues that CoR has been working on this year:
 1. FRAP (Faculty Research Award Program):
 - CoR drafted and approved recommendations for improvements to FRAP during 2020-21 academic year (while FRAP was on pause due to budget limitations)
 - With the change in leadership, we decided to wait and present these recommendations once the new VRPED had a chance to settle in.
 - CoR re-approved the recommendations at our last meeting, and I presented them to VRPED Kesh on 4/28/2022
 - Two key recommendations:
 - A broader success rubric for evaluation of FRAP applications and outcomes, with success metrics aligned with the pillars of the University's strategic plan
 - An increase in the maximum award cap from \$10,000 to \$20,000 where well-justified and aligned with strategic goals
 2. Distribution of Indirect Cost Return (ICR)
 - On 2/5/2020, this body (University Senate) passed a resolution originating from CoR regarding revisions to the distribution of ICR funds from grants.
 - This resolution calls for 5% of ICR to go directly to PIs to be spent on research costs that contribute to their future research efforts.
 - This change was to be implemented "as soon as possible"
 - The COVID-19 pandemic and budget crisis quickly swept this issue aside
 - CoR has brought this to the attention of VPRED Kesh, and is seeking conversations with the administration about moving forward
 3. ERCA (Excellence in Research and Creative Activities award):
 - CoR oversees the review process for ERCA (by Senate charter)
 - There has been some confusion between CoR, Academic Affairs, and VPRED on procedures for review committee selection and confidentiality of the process.
 - We had a productive meeting on 4/14/2022 with Glyne Griffith (AA) and Satyen Kumar (VPRED office) to discuss clarifying procedures well in advance of next year's review cycle.
 - One goal is to increase the number of full professors and active PIs on the review committee
 - Going forward, CoR will be more proactive in recruiting potential ERCA reviewers from outside of CoR.

- We will recruit a pool of potential reviewers of sufficient rank and diversity of disciplines in the Fall semester, before the nominations come in.
 - This should ensure the highest quality reviews are completed in a timely way once we receive the nominations
 - The ERCA review subcommittee will operate with the same confidentiality as a T&P committee.
4. Academic Excellence and Success Fees
- Questions have arisen about the funds from this fee (\$525 per student) are spent, including whether there are opportunities to make specific requests against these funds related to student research experiences.
 - CoR has had a few exchanges with VP Finance Todd Foreman about these question, still ongoing.
 - CoR may report some outcomes of these conversations to Senate next academic year.