

Research Council Charge

Background

Per the Faculty Constitution IV.3.B.1 “The Research Council’s mission is to stimulate scholarly research activities throughout the University. The Research Council identifies needs of the faculty, analyzes research services, and recommends policies and procedures to the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies. The Research Council shall evaluate and recommend priorities for internal funds to stimulate innovative research efforts.”

This charge has gone unamended since it was first written, despite its dating to a time when funded research represented a smaller portion of the university’s research portfolio and had lesser budgetary implications than it does at present. The charge as written does not reflect a current understanding of shared governance, in that other than including a number of faculty members on the council, it does not adumbrate the nature of the relationship of the Research Council to the Senate, nor outline a system of regular reports to the Faculty regarding matters of interest to the Faculty. The Vice President for Research has indicated an interest in and willingness to reform the Council as a more effective representative and advisory body. The conjunction of this interest with increased interest by the Faculty in the management and facilitation of research at Wright State and the impending Quadrennial Review of the Faculty Constitution, make amending the charge to the Council a timely matter

Proposed Amended Charge

The Research Council’s mission is to stimulate scholarly research activities throughout the University. The Research Council identifies needs of the faculty, analyzes research services, and recommends policies and procedures to the Vice President for Research. As funded research within the academic units of Wright State University is an important component of our mission and institutional reputation, the Research Council shall develop, regularly update, and implement a strategic plan to stimulate and sustain funded academic research. The Research Council shall also regularly evaluate and recommend priorities for internal funds to stimulate innovative research efforts, particularly those in areas of research that may not typically be targeted by external funding. The Research Council shall work with the Faculty to formulate and implement mechanisms to increase the rate of proposal submissions by academic faculty, increase the rate of proposal awards, and facilitate timely execution of funded research programs. The Research Council shall report to the Faculty Senate once per semester.

The Research Council shall work with academic programs to develop strategies for

- increasing student research activities, especially funded research activities, at all levels
- increasing the number students pursuing research activities at WSU
- increasing the number and quality of theses and dissertations successfully defended at WSU
- increasing the number of scholarly works co-authored with students.

The Research Council will (at least) annually report to the Faculty Senate quantitative longitudinal measures of significant research productivities by college, including those listed above.