

Minutes

Research, Scholarship, and Creative Expression Council Meeting

January 30, 2023, 1 p.m.

Microsoft Teams

Present: Chair Nick Hirshon (COAHS), Tom Fallace (COE), Jill Nocella (COSH), Jan Pinkston (Professional Staff Representative), Jill Nocella (COSH), Babita Srivastava (Adjunct Representative), David Williams (Library), Anthony Mayo (OSP)

Absent: Andrey Kretinin (CCOB)

Guests: Gary Marks, Senate Governance Council, and Barbara Andrew, Honors College Dean

RSCE Council Standing Charges:

Senate Governance Council Chair Gary Marks was present to discuss discrepancies in council standing charges, as outlined in the bylaws, and all standing charges as outlined on the senate website or other existing documentation. Marks noted that one discrepancy related to the RSCE Council was the name change that was implemented a few years ago (from Research Council to Research, Scholarship, and Creative Expression Council) and that has been corrected. Another discrepancy was related to standing charge #3c "Assigned research time and selection." Marks questioned the committee's role in regard to this charge and asked if this is something the RSCE members regularly does or feels should be done. Hirshon and the other council members agreed that 3c is obsolete because it is related to Union negotiations and was never under the purview of the council. Marks agreed the charge is obsolete and noted that the Senate is prohibited from providing recommendations related to ART because it is negotiated between the union and the administration. Mayo stated that he is currently researching this process between the AFT and the administration.

Marks stated that the Governance council is questioning if various senate councils have existing procedure manuals or written procedures in place. The council members stated that no formal procedures are in place. Marks questioned the council's procedures for making policy recommendations. Williams gave an example of how the RSCE council handled the Open Access Policy and approved it before it went forward to the full Senate for consideration. Hirshon noted that the RSCE Council provides an annual report to the Senate which seems to suffice, and noted that if the Senate requires more documentation than that, it would be helpful to have clarity on what should be included. Marks said the Governance Council is not recommending anything new at this time. He also noted that the Governance Council would be glad to assist with the review and/or modifications to the council bylaws or standing charges.

Fallace stated that occasionally members of the administration make requests from the RSCE Council and questioned if those come on behalf of or with permission of the Senate. Marks replied that requests should come from the senate liaison and the Senate Executive Committee should be notified if councils are getting requests from other individuals. Fallace expressed frustration that over the years, our council has spent time researching and writing various reports that were requested and it seems that the Senate has done nothing with them. Marks said he shares that frustration. Marks stated that a new annual report coming out later this year will include information about terms and future council seats.

Honors College First-Year Research Program

Honors College Dean Barbara Andrew was present to discuss the Honors College's student research pilot program to explain how it operates so RSCE members can consider how a similar program might be expanded to more or all William Paterson students. Andrew stated that the program is no longer considered a pilot program as it has now been in place for three years and has been incorporated into the Honors College curriculum. Andrew explained that during their first semester at WP, Honors students participate in a one-credit guided research project with a faculty member, and there are usually five sections for approximately 100 first year Honors students. The topics vary by section, depending on the discipline of the faculty member. The Honors College solicits for applications to teach the course each spring, and ideally each college is represented. Students in some sections participate in group projects and other participate in individual projects. The Honors College hosts "Research Night" at the end of the fall semester where about 100 students present their research in the ballrooms.

Hirshon asked Andrew to explain some of the challenges. Andrew responded that although faculty members are compensated for a one-credit course, prepping for the first time teaching the course is a heavy lift, similar to designing a 3-4 credit course, and there is no budget for that. Andrew also stated that while research is a high-impact practice that every student can benefit from, it's likely that students who enter the Honors College had more preparation in high school. She said that the students love doing research but the courses must be impactful because Gen Z students need to feel that it is important and valuable. Budgetary constraints make this challenging due to science lab fees, materials, access to databases, etc.

A member asked if this could lead to student publications, and that grants are available to start programs like this to start an undergraduate journal.

Hirshon asked Andrew about the benefits. Andrew noted that students are more engaged due to the active learning style and students can see practical aspects to the course. She noted that the course helps with retention, and it gives students a path and goal that they can work towards. She noted that it also contributes to a high retention and graduation rate in Honors, and that it also helps with internship, employment, and grad school applications because students can list research experience on their resume.

Mayo stated that he will look into grant possibilities and said he knows of publications such as the *Stanford Journal* that introduce students to the editing and peer review processes. Williams stated that the library would support an effort like this if resources allow.

Explorations 2023

Mayo discussed Explorations and said it will primarily be held April 17-21, although some events might take place during the month of April and first week of May. He noted that historically, attendance at this event has been low, and he has been talking with the deans about ways to incentivize it such as leveraging faculty members to assist by offering credit for attending Explorations, offering service badges and career/leadership badges, offering Will.Power credit, planning events during common hour, asking chairs to encourage student capstone projects during this time, and having special speakers. Mayo said he is speaking to the Provost's office about providing funds and will likely get a modest amount. Email messages will be sent to the deans and chairs about how to register and deadlines for abstracts. Nocella mentioned that doctoral students in nursing and PSYD students will be presenting and

that should be advertised. Pinkston mentioned that over 130 students will be presenting at Honors Research Week that is taking place April 17-21.

There was no old business or new business. Meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.