

*"The committees' annual reports shall be composed by the committee officers according to the official form and submitted to the Faculty Senate office for duplication and distribution to the Chair of the Faculty, the Chair of the Committee on Committees, the present members of the committee, and the new members of the committee whose terms begin next academic year. Copies of the committees' annual reports will be kept on file in the University Archives, Faculty Senate office, and made available electronically on the Faculty Senate web site. Upon request, copies of committees' annual reports shall be made available by the Faculty Senate office."*

*ECU Faculty Manual, Part II, Section II. <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/fsonline/customcf/currentfacultymanual/part2section2.pdf>*

## **EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE ACADEMIC AND APPELLATE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

### **2014-2015 Academic Year**

**COMMITTEE: Research and Creative Activities Committee**

1. Membership (include ex-officio members).

Regular members:	Christy Ashley	Ex-officio members:	Ali Al-Sharadqah
	Jason Brinkley (Vice Chair)		Chal Benson
	Colin Burns		Patricia Crane
	David Conradt		Qin Ding
	Bernice Dodor		Mary Farwell
	Katherine Ford		Ernie Marshburn
	Megan Janke (Secretary)		
	Hanna Jubran		
	Sitawa Kimuna		
	Alex Manda		
	Richard McCabe		
	Jay Newhard (Chair)		
	Konstantinos Spaniolas		
	Anne Ticknor		

2. Meeting Dates

02 September 2014

Regular members present: Christy Ashley, Jason Brinkley, David Conradt, Katherine Ford, Megan Janke, Sitawa Kimuna, Alex Manda, Richard McCabe, Jay Newhard, Anne Ticknor  
Ex-officio members present: Ali Al-Sharadqah, Chal Benson, Patricia Crane, Qin Ding, Mary Farwell

Others in attendance: Lori Lee, Andrew Morehead, Michael Van Scott

08 October 2014

Regular members present: Christy Ashley, Jason Brinkley, Katherine Ford, Megan Janke, Sitawa Kimuna, Richard McCabe, Jay Newhard  
Ex-officio members present: Ali Al-Sharadqah, Chal Benson, Patricia Crane, Qin Ding, Ernie Marshburn

Others in attendance: —

12 November 2014

Regular members present: Christy Ashley, Colin Burns, Jason Brinkley, Katie Ford, Megan Janke, Hanna Jubran, Sitawa Kimuna, Alex Manda, Richard McCabe, Jay Newhard  
Ex-officio members present: Ali Al-Sharadqah, Chal Benson, Qin Ding  
Others in attendance: —

15 January 2015

Regular members present: Christy Ashley, Jason Brinkley, David Conradt, Bernice Dodor, Katie Ford, Megan Janke, Hanna Jubran, Alex Manda, Jay Newhard, Anne Ticknor  
Ex-officio members present: Ali Al-Sharadqah, Chal Benson, Patricia Crane, Qin Ding, Mary Farwell, Ernie Marshburn  
Others in attendance: —

11 February 2015

Regular members present: Jason Brinkley, Colin Burns, David Conradt, Bernice Dodor, Katie Ford, Megan Janke, Hanna Jubran, Alex Manda, Jay Newhard, Anne Ticknor  
Ex-officio members present: Ali Al-Sharadqah, Qin Ding, Mary Farwell, Ernie Marshburn  
Others in attendance: —

3. Subcommittees established during the year. (Include progress and/or completion of work.)

Four subcommittees were established for the purpose of evaluating Research and Creative Activity Award proposals. Work was completed on schedule.

Health Subcommittee

Jason Brinkley, Patricia Crane, Megan Janke, Richard McCabe, Konstantinos Spaniolas

Humanities Subcommittee

Katie Ford, Hanna Jubran, Jay Newhard

Natural Science Subcommittee

Ali Al-Sharadqah, Chal Benson, Colin Burns, Qin Ding, Mary Farwell, Alex Manda

Social Science Subcommittee

Christy Ashley, David Conradt, Bernice Dodor, Sitawa Kimuna, Ernie Marshburn, Anne Ticknor

4. Accomplishments during the year, especially as addressed through committee goals. Please include recommendations made to any University agency other than the Faculty Senate that will be noted under #5.

The Division of Research and Graduate Studies provided \$25,000 in funds to support grant proposals. The Research and Creative Activities Committee called for proposal submissions, strongly recommending a budget cap of \$6250, since, at this budget cap, there would be funds to support four proposals. Funding one proposal from each of the four subcommittees was deemed a desideratum of fairness to the East Carolina faculty. Twenty-two proposals were submitted and reviewed. The top-ranked proposal in each of the four subcommittee areas was funded; the four budgets totaled \$21,122. The remaining funds, together with \$3162.71 of additional funds from the Division of Research and Graduate Studies (for which the Research and Creative Activities Committee is grateful) were used to support a fifth proposal.

The instructions for the Research / Creative Activity Award Competition were updated, as was the Frequently Asked Questions document.

Research and Creative Activities Committee members held an information session for prospective applicants on 10 December 2014.

Constructive feedback was given via e-mail on 16 March 2015 to applicants whose proposals were not funded.

The Research and Creative Activities Committee discussed upcoming revisions to the ECU Faculty Manual on the fair use of copyrighted material (Part VI, Section 1, Sub-section 12). Ultimately, proposed revisions for this section were sent to another Faculty Senate committee for review.

The Research and Creative Activities Committee reviewed proposed revisions to the ECU Faculty Manual on created copyrighted and copyrightable material. This section of the ECU Faculty Manual (Part VII, Section 2, Sub-section 6) had been revised by the University Copyright Committee, and was approved by the Research and Creative Activities Committee.

Megan Janke represented the Research and Creative Activities Committee on the University Copyright Committee.

Konstantinos Spaniolas represented the Research and Creative Activities Committee on the Open Access Publishing Fund Decision-Making Committee.

5. Reports to the Faculty Senate (include dates and resolution numbers).

04 November 2014: Jay Newhard, Chair of the Research and Creative Activities Committee, presented revised application Guidelines for the 2014-2015 Research and Creative Activity Awards (RCAA) Competition. The Guidelines were approved as presented. (Faculty Senate Resolution #14-84)

21 April 2015: Donna Kain presented Proposed Revisions to the ECU Faculty Manual, Part VII, Section II, Subsection VI. Copyrights (created work). (Faculty Senate Resolution #15-70)

6. Business carried over to next year (list in priority order).

The Research and Creative Activities Committee discussed how best to provide feedback to applicants whose proposals were not funded. Even the suggestion of adopting a format of Strengths, Weaknesses, and Suggestions (cf. "Business carried over to next year" in last year's report) is not adequate, because, while it may be a decent approach as far as it goes, the real issue is with the content, rather than the structure of the comments. Some of these issues were discussed in detail apropos an e-mail to the Research and Creative Activities Committee from Dr. George Bailey, Chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. It is important that all comments provided as feedback reflect an appreciation for the kind of work done in that discipline and the care with which the proposal was evaluated. At the same time, it is not feasible to impose a single format or approach for feedback for all proposals, because the

nature of the work done in the many disciplines of faculty at ECU is simply too varied. To these ends, the process of collecting comments for feedback must be given more attention by the Research and Creative Activities Committee. One reasonable suggestion is for comments to be collected very soon after subcommittees review their proposals; for subcommittee chairs to review those comments soon after the comments are collected; and for the chair or vice chair to collect these comments from subcommittee chairs and review them again. It is reasonable to think that the long term success of the Research and Creative Activities Awards depends to some extent on faculty trusting that their work will be appreciated, and so it is important that this part of the evaluation process be regimented, whether through the suggestion mentioned here or through another.

Although Awardees are required to submit a Final Report on their projects, these reports are not currently used to assess whether the Awards made by the Research and Creative Activities Committee are successful, or might be improved. Such assessment is new to the work of the Research and Creative Activities Committee, but it would assist administrators making funding decisions. Given the consideration mentioned above, *sc.*, that the nature of the work done in the many disciplines of faculty of ECU is so varied, this will not be a simple or straightforward task. But the Research and Creative Activities Committee ought to at least do what it can reasonably do to assist administrators with their funding decisions, such as putting into place a system to find out from Awardees approximately one year after completing their projects what publications, presentations, and grants the research led to. If adopted, such a measure should be included in the application Guidelines.

Guidelines for 2015-2016 Research and Creative Activity Awards will need slight updating before being presented to Faculty Senate for approval.

A Postdoctoral Scholar PRR is currently in draft form; the Research and Creative Activities Committee may be asked to review it.

7. Evaluation of the committee (include anything that hindered or assisted the committee's work during the year).
  - A. Charge: Appropriate.
  - B. Personnel: Very cooperative, responsive, diligent, and conscientious. Regarding composition, there was a slight imbalance among the number of faculty in the subcommittees. It would be helpful to have faculty from evenly assorted disciplines so that the same number of faculty (five) are suitable for each subcommittee.
  - C. Attendance: Good; quorums at all called meetings except one. (One regular member short on 08 October 2014.)
  - D. Responsibilities: Reasonable.
  - E. Activities: Reasonable. A combination of e-mails and meetings were effective and efficient.
  
8. Suggestion(s) to the Chair of the Faculty and/or Faculty Senate for improving the effectiveness of the committee.

It would contribute to the morale of the Research and Creative Activities Committee as well as the morale of ECU faculty if more money were available to fund proposals. Last spring, the first time funds were available since the 2010-2011 academic year, \$25,182 was used to support five proposals. These research projects led to an impressive array of results. One project led to a publication in *Nuclear Physics B* (an A\* journal, i.e., top 5% of all mathematical physics journals). Another led to two presentations at professional society meetings and two grant proposals (a Wenner-Gren grant is pending, and a Leakey Foundation grant proposal to be submitted in July). The researcher for a third proposal obtained negative results, but is planning to submit a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health proposal (R03) based on the project's results. A fourth project led to co-authoring an article (in preparation), an American Association of University Women grant (pending), and a National Humanities Center grant to develop her RCA research into a book project (to be submitted in fall 2015). The research for the fifth project was presented at the African Studies Association annual conference, and at the Gender To A Tea series on campus at ECU. In sum, these five projects have so far led to the production of an article published in a top journal of mathematical physics, three presentations at professional society meetings, one professional colloquium presentation on campus, and two pending grant proposals; additionally, a co-authored journal article is in preparation, as well as three grant proposals, including a grant to write a book. This year, eighteen of the twenty-two proposals were deemed meritorious. The number of proposals submitted for this year's competition is a significant decrease from last year's competition, when only five of thirty-two were funded. The number of proposals is likely to increase if funding is available to permit an increase in the recommended budget cap, and to support more projects. Indeed, East Carolina University has a talented faculty who have many more worthwhile projects than there have recently been funds to support.

number of awards	total amount of funding	productivity
5	\$25,182	1 top tier journal article 3 professional society presentations 1 presentation on campus 2 grant proposals (pending)  1 co-authored journal article (in preparation) 3 grant proposals (in preparation)

9. Does the Committee's organizational meeting next year need to be earlier than the date set this year? If yes, when do you prefer: \_\_\_\_\_

No, although it would be helpful to the process of the solicitation of grant proposals to address updating the Guidelines for 2015-2016 Research and Creative Activity Awards at the first meeting (perhaps with an e-mail vote later) so that it can be placed on the Faculty Senate agenda as soon as possible.

Signed: Chairperson Jay Rowland  
 Secretary Megan C. Janke

**Please forward the completed annual report to the Faculty Senate office via email (faculty senate@ecu.edu) no later than May 1, 2015.**