

## **Research and Creative Activities Committee**

### Organizational Meeting Minutes

September 2, 2014

#### Regular Committee Members In Attendance:

David Conradt, Jay Newhard, Katherine Ford, Christy Ashley, Anne Ticknor, Megan Janke, Sitawa Kimuna, Jason Brinkley, Richard McGabe, & Alex Manda

#### Ex-Officio Members (with vote) in Attendance:

Chal Benson, Mary Farwell, Patricia Crane, Ali Al-Sharadqah, & Qin Ding

#### Others in Attendance:

Andrew Morehead, Michael Van Scott, & Lori Lee

### **I. Election of Committee Officers for 2014-2015**

The following individuals were nominated and approved for the committee positions.

Chair: Jay Newhard

Vice Chair: Jason Brinkley

Secretary: Megan Janke

### **II. Business Carried Over from 2013-2014**

#### *a. Copyright Documentation & Alignment of ECU Copyright Policy with current Faculty Manual in Part VI*

- Discussion about how this was left in limbo at the end of last year, and unclear whether it has already been approved or if it is still being reviewed by the lawyers.
- Fundamental issue is that the PRR is derived from the same authority but that it needs to say the same thing – use similar language – in both the Faculty Manual and in the PRR.
- Can link to the PRR in the Faculty Manual or have clear, less ambiguous language in the PRR.
- Currently interim PRR on copyrights
- Stated that it might be better if the Copyright Committee makes the first changes to the document.
- Ask Copyright Committee if RCA can have guest attendees when the PRR is discussed.

#### *b. Common form for critical feedback of RCA Award applications*

- Discussion about the need to come up with a common system for evaluating the applications to better evaluate their “value” or “return on investment”

- Rick Niswander wants to know how we are assessing whether the grants awarded are “successful”.
  - Currently have awardees submit a report in September. Mary Farwell is going to review the submitted reports.
- c. Use of subcommittees when reviewing RCA Award applications
- The committee was informed that 4 subcommittees have been established in the past to review submitted applications (Arts & Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, & Medicine)
  - Committee members asked to think about whether they agree with this idea and would like to continue with this process, particularly with conferring one award per subcategory. This will be discussed at a future meeting.
  - Mike Van Scott noted that \$25,000 has been earmarked for RCA Award applications. In the past this has been distributed as 4 awards of approximately \$6250.
- d. Stipend considerations for RCA Award recipients
- Discussion that the stipend requests from applicants/recipients is often uneven in their budgets.
  - It may not be possible to regulate this, given the overall amount of money to distribute, but the committee was reminded of the importance of making sure that the budget for the proposals is justified (including stipend requests) based on the work proposed.
- e. Update guidelines and “Frequently Asked Questions”
- Jason Brinkley noted that there was a need to revise some of these guidelines, and the FAQ page on the web site
- f. Tying future funding of RCA Awards to follow-up “on campus” presentations
- One suggestion was to have the recipients present their “product” or findings of their research and perhaps have this align in some way with the Research and Creative Activities Week for students in the spring.
  - Last year’s recipients will be submitting their reports at the beginning of September.

### **III. New Business**

- a. Update grant proposal and present formal revisions to Faculty Senate
- b. Provide formal faculty advice on proposed Postdoctoral Scholar PRR, inviting Kathy Verbanac to meeting for discussion
- c. Appoint a member to serve on the Committee on Copyrights
  - Megan Janke is currently serving on the Committee on Copyrights as the representative of the Research and Creative Activities Committee