

Research and Creative Activities Committee Meeting

September 21, 2023

Attendance:

Regular Members: Rashmita Basu, Juan Escourido, Yeliz Eseryel, Anna Froula, Young Joo Kim, Jeffrey Skibins, Edmund Wall, Baohong Zhang, Peng Xiao, Uduak Akpan, Xi Lin, Linda Bolin, Veeranna Maddipati

Ex-officio Members: Mary Farwell, Alex Manda, Alex Schoemann, Heather Wright

Others in attendance: John Drake, Margaret Macready

Veeranna Maddipati moved that the subcommittees reviewing FSRA applications meet again sometime tomorrow to finalize their recommendations for presentation to the committee. Yeliz Eseryel, chair of the committee, approved. The motion passed without opposition. The chairs of all the reviewing subcommittees met with the committee chair the following day to finalize the subcommittees' recommendations.

The committee's August 2023 minutes were approved without revision.

In responding to the committee's approval in its August meeting of Maddipati becoming vice-chair of the committee, Maddipati agreed.

Eseryel brought the committee's attention to requested changes to the project description of its call for the FRSC awards. The requested changes were presented to the committee in a 9/20/2023 email by Dr. Collins (program director, undergraduate studies, Philosophy). Collins explained that the changes were endorsed by chairs and program directors in English, Foreign Languages and Literatures, History, and Philosophy & Religious Studies. They suggested that the first heading in the relevant portion of the project description be amended to read "For research proposals in mathematics and the natural and social sciences," and that the second heading be amended to read, "For research and creative activities proposal in the humanities and arts..." Eseryel suggested that, instead, references to the departments and areas be dropped and also suggested that the committee employ the following division which cuts across disciplines: "research proposals" and "creative activities proposals." Young Joo Kim agreed with Eseryel's suggested approach. Maddipati inquired whether Eseryel's proposed changes are limited to the language of the call or goes beyond language. Eseryel replied that it is limited to the language. Baohong Zhang moved that Eseryel's proposed changes be made. The motion passed without opposition.

Eseryel said that the anticipated Chancellor's letter confirming the Research Intensive (RI) designation has not been received yet.

Eseryel then turned to Anne Ticknor's general recommendation that the committee consider connecting its business items to the university's Strategic Plan. Then, referring to meetings between chairs of the various university committees and the upcoming examination of RCAC activities in relation to the committee's strategic goals, Eseryel said we will have to see where this project will lead.

Juan Escourido asked whether, at present, there is a requirement for any students to take RI courses. Eseryel responded that it is too soon to consider RI as a requirement for courses. Escourido then asked whether there was an anticipated approval date for RI courses. Eseryel said that there is none yet.

Eseryel said the Budget committee was considering the practice of supplemental pay for extra research activities. The Budget committee wants to meet with some RCAC committee members to examine this. Heather Wright then commented that the people involved must keep in mind that there are applicable federal laws in operation. Knowledge of the legal dimensions is required. Eseryel then asked for volunteers from the RCAC committee to meet with the Budget committee on the matter. Peng Xiao agreed to do so.

Eseryel made a motion to adjourn. Escourido seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 4:53pm.

Submitted by Wall.