Coastal Carolina University

University Research Council Minutes

Wednesday, January 18, 2012 3:00 PM
(EHFA) Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts Room 164

Members Present: Daniel Ennis, Paul Gayes, Edward Jadallah, Gary Loftus, James Luken, Mike Roberts, Sara Sanders, Charmaine Tomczyk, Cheryl Ward, Zan Wiggins, and Rob Young

Members Absent: Ralph Byington, Var Limpasuvan, and Wink Prince.

1. December 14, 2011 minutes were approved.

2. Reviewed Emerging Scholars Research Award and Graduate Student Research Incentive Grants
   a. After reviewing the award and grant letters, revised language was proposed and approved to be consistent with the URC mission statement, in particular replacing “research” with “research, scholarship, and creative works” throughout. “Research” was removed from the names of both awards and both were named as incentive grants, such that the new names are the “Emerging Scholar Incentive Award” and the “Graduate Student Incentive Grants.” The revised information/application notices are attached.
   b. The committee re-emphasized last year’s resolution to better promote the Emerging Scholar award this year. The announcement should be sent to chairs and deans and ideally each department will recommend a candidate for the award.

3. Discussion: Response to Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1.4
   The SACS Off-Site Committee found the Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1.4, regarding research within the educational mission, to be non-compliant. Specifically, the report stated that the institution has not stated clear outcomes for research, and no use of assessment results for approval were found. The URC committee discussed areas where research outcomes are currently addressed and where they might be implemented in the future. Major topics and recommendations included:
   a. Faculty research productivity is assessed through the P&T procedure, and the Office of Grants and Sponsored Research sets and assesses annual objectives related to effective service and reporting to promote grant productivity, but neither of these represents institution-wide objectives and assessments for research.
   b. The QEP will start in fall 2012 and will include clear learning outcomes and assessments for undergraduate research courses.
   c. A possible approach would be to require clear research outcomes/objectives as part of the annual planning and assessment process for each college and for the funded Centers. These might be quantitative or qualitative objectives.
   d. University-wide efforts to raise awareness and interest in research that is currently going on at the University should be promoted. A weekly university research symposium was suggested, highlighting scholarship by CCU faculty.
   e. No specific recommendations were made from this discussion.

4. the meeting was adjourned at 4pm