

Year-End Report

1. **Council:** Research, Scholarship, and Creative Expression Council
2. **Academic Year:** 2021-2022
3. **Council Members:** Co-Chair Nick Hirshon (COHSS), Co-Chair Debbie Mohammed (COSH), Thomas Fallace (COE), Andrey Kretinin (CCOB), Richard Huizar (COHSS), Jan Pinkston (Professional Staff Rep), Babita Srivastava (CCOB), David Williams (Library), Christine Bravo (OSP)
4. **Council Charges and Summary of Council Activities:**

Standing Charges:

1. Promote Faculty, Librarian, Professional Staff, and Adjunct Faculty scholarship; identify, on an ongoing basis, current and anticipated faculty, librarian, professional staff and adjunct faculty needs with regard to scholarship and research and recommend strategies designed to meet those needs.

In order to promote faculty research with students, the Council discussed enlisting Deans to encourage their faculty to include research opportunities in course outlines. At the March 4 meeting, Council members agreed that capstone projects may make more sense in the liberal arts and sciences than in professional majors such as business, education, and nursing. The Council recommends the University explore the possibility of expanding UCC to include opportunities for student research with faculty, and the Council suggests the University highlight student-faculty research that is already taking place.

2. Support the continued efforts to build academic research networks on and beyond the William Paterson campus.

Council members arranged for their respective colleges to present at Explorations from March 24 through April 30. The Undergraduate Research Symposium took place on April 2, featuring Professor Marcy Balunas of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Connecticut as the plenary speaker. The Author's Reception occurred on April 12, and Honors Week took place from April 25 to April 28.

3. Review, yearly and as needed, the policies, procedures, and guidelines for each of the following:

- a. Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects,*
- b. Scientific and Academic Fraud and Misconduct,*
- c. Assessed Research Time Application and Selection.*

The Council continued to hold discussions about this charge, particularly in light of long-term threats to ART.

Additional Charges

1) Continue research on how universities provide faculty with blocks of dedicated research time. Present the findings to the Senate.

2) Look into the creation of a conceptual framework for a Center for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Expression that will house and manage an RSCE portal.

As the Council submitted a report to the Faculty Senate in May 2021 on research time, research centers, and research portals, Faculty Senate Vice Chair Wendy Christensen clarified in an Oct. 4 email that these two charges had been satisfied.

3) Survey students and faculty on the barriers to and potential for student research collaboration with faculty. Work with Jonathan Lincoln to address what should be done to "expand opportunities for high impact practice of student research work with faculty" as identified by the NSSE/FSSE Results Task Force.

RSCE Council Co-Chair Nick Hirshon invited Associate Provosts Jonathan Lincoln and Kara Rabbitt to discuss this charge at the Council's meeting on Nov. 8. Associate Provost Lincoln suggested the University offer introductory courses for undergraduates to experience laboratory settings, while Associate Provost Rabbitt recommended publicizing research opportunities on websites and social media. Council members proposed the University publish an online journal where undergraduates can publish research and recognize top undergraduate research projects with awards at a luncheon or commencement. The Council had surveyed the models of support for faculty research at William Paterson's peer and aspirational institutions in 2021; during the 2022-2023 academic year, the Council could look at how the same programs support student research.

5. Recommended Charges for the next Academic Year:

- 1) Identify strategies to encourage and recognize undergraduate research, including methods that William Paterson's peer and aspirational universities have employed.
- 2) Discuss whether the Honors College's student research pilot program, including a one-credit project, could be expanded to more or all William Paterson students.