

Research and Service (R&S) Committee Year End Summary 2018-19

Committee members: Ajay Agrawal; Silas Blackstock; Cory Callahan; Andrew Dewar; Peter Jensen; Adam Knowlden; Sushma Kotru; Michael Kreger; Shuhui Li; William Martin; Preethi Nair; Laura Reed; Edward Sazonov; Kelly Shannon

Co-chairs: Ajay Agrawal and Michael Kreger

The R&S Committee focused on the following tasks during the year:

1. Search for VP for Research & Economic Development
2. Meetings/Discussions with Provost and interim VP for R&ED
3. Faculty Research Survey

1. Search for VP for Research & Economic Development

The committee's involvement in the search for the VP for Research and Economic Development continued from the previous academic year. R&S Committee member Si Blackstock served on the search committee as the Faculty Senate representative and provided periodic updates to the committee and Faculty Senate on the search process. Members of the R&S committee met with Ann Die Hasselmo of the search firm consultant at the end of the spring semester to share the committee's vision and priorities for the next VPR. Committee members attended presentations by the candidates, met as a committee with each candidate during interviews, and provided a summary assessment of the candidates at the end of the interview process.

2. Meetings/Discussions with Provost and interim VP for R&ED

The R&S Committee co-chairs, Ajay Agrawal and Mike Kreger, and the Research Advisory Committee chair, David Albright, had regular meetings with the provost and interim VP for R&ED to discuss concerns related to the research enterprise at the university. These meetings included discussions regarding research-related needs to be addressed by the future capital campaign, concerns about services provided by the Office of Sponsored Programs, infrastructure needs, and progress made on faculty recruitment.

3. Faculty Research Survey

The primary focus of the R&S Committee during this past year was execution and evaluation of the faculty research survey, and production of a final report. Beginning during the 2017-18 academic year the committee, with input from the Faculty Senate Steering Committee and Research Advisory Committee (RAC), designed and developed a survey to collect feedback regarding research on the UA campus. The survey contained 28 specific questions divided into multiple categories. Requested responses were either to rank in order or assign a weight in order of importance. Written comments could also be submitted for each question.

The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA) administered the confidential survey from October 3 through November 2, 2018. All faculty members that are counted for Faculty Senate seat

apportionment, including those having full-time, part-time, regular, and temporary employment status, received the survey. Numeric results of the survey were tabulated and shared with the UA administration, including Dr. Russell Mumper, the recently-named VP for Research and Economic Development, at the end of the fall semester. Co-chairs Agrawal and Kreger met with the RAC in mid-January to provide an overview of the numeric results, and met with Drs. Mumper and Higginbotham in mid-February to have an in-depth discussion of the numeric results. During the spring semester R&S Committee members read all written comments and prepared a summary of those comments for each question. A final report consisting of an executive summary, recommendations, the numerical results, and a summary of detailed comments (with hot links to the detailed comments grouped by responses from faculty in humanities, natural sciences and engineering, and social sciences) has been created and submitted to the UA administration. The report is available to the faculty on the Faculty Senate website.