



AY 2021-2022

Report of the University Research Committee (URC) to the Faculty Senate

The URC met monthly in 2021-2022, October to May.

As a new committee (as of 2020), we began by defining our Structure and Operating Procedures. The full document may be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HCW9kCsrsBxrhIAE41hkva8FkK0YglRj/view>

The committee consists of 16 voting members with 8 constituting a quorum.

Our charge consists of 6 elements:

1. Conduct periodic surveys of the Faculty regarding the infrastructure, training, and services available to faculty for the conduct of research, including satisfaction, suggestions for improvement, and any obstacles identified by the faculty.
2. Recommend to the Provost and President suitable policies and standards for University-level investments and initiatives pertaining to research. Recommend to the Faculty Senate or its appropriate committees and to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies suitable policies and standards for University Studies courses and programs.
3. Work with relevant members of the Faculty and Administration to develop Data Management infrastructure and policies.
4. Work with relevant members of the administration to develop ideas and plans to improve and increase research across the University, and; and to suggest paths forward through challenges.
5. Act in liaison with appropriate committees, including the Academic Quality Committee and the Faculty Development Committee.
6. Report at least once each year to the Senate, including the results of faculty surveys and a report on research at all degree levels including undergraduate.

Brief summary of AY2020-2021 Activities and Accomplishments

We conducted a survey of the Faculty (Charge #1) in 2020 on research, the results of which were presented to the Faculty Senate on 11/2/2021. Specific challenges that were brought up across disciplines by the faculty included:

- Lack of protected time for research;
- Lack of graduate student funding;
- Support for interdisciplinary centers but strong departmental silos for teaching and graduate student supervision.

Our recommendations for the administration were thus to restructure programs and incentives in order to allow for cross-disciplinary collaboration, and prioritize funding for graduate students across the disciplines.

AY2021-2022 Activities and Accomplishments

For 2022, our committee had 4 working groups focused on the target areas, each of which met at least once between the monthly full-committee meetings.

a. Research funding opportunities group (Charge #2&4)

This group invited speakers from Foundation and the Center for Life in Extreme Environments (CLEE) to present on funding opportunities and research structures, respectively. The group also attended several NSF informational sessions and obtained information about NSF infrastructure, IGE, and NRT grants. It created a statement-of-interest page on the RGS website that allowed faculty interested in graduate training to come together; this has led to formation of a working group to seek interdisciplinary training grants. Lead: Jay Nadeau, nadeau@pdx.edu

b. Allocation of space, teaching loads, and buyouts group (Charge #2&4)

This group met regularly throughout the year to determine what would be useful for PSU faculty and administration to know about how decisions are made related to these topics as they pertain to research, scholarship and creative endeavors. The workgroup met with key informants from the university and union to gain a university-wide perspective on these topics, then developed a web survey for deans and department heads to learn about school- and department-level practices. The survey has been programmed and piloted and approved by the URC. It will be distributed during the first week of May. Results will be gathered before the end of the academic year. The workgroup will analyze the results over the summer and create a report over the summer. The report will be shared with the faculty senate and made available to PSU faculty once it is completed. Questions about the survey can be addressed to workgroup lead, Karen Cellarius, at cellark@pdx.edu

d. Promotion of undergraduate research, scholarship and creative activities

(Lead: Drake Mitchell, drakem@pdx.edu)

The group met monthly. Topics included

- How to link undergraduates to research opportunities, especially opportunities outside their departments.
- IRB form adding a check box to ask if they wanted an undergraduate student to help with their research.
- What else can we capitalize on? How can we utilize or promote the website for undergraduate research? We talked about funding opportunities for undergraduates.
- Link to announcement of opportunities form shared with group.

e. **Data Management Work Group** (charge #3) Lead: Kimberly Pendell, kpendell@pdx.edu

This subgroup completed its task and created a Research Data Guidebook, found here:

<https://pdx.pressbooks.pub/researchdataguidebook/>