

# Year-End Report

1. **Council:** Research, Scholarship, and Creative Expression Council
2. **Academic Year:** 2020-2021
3. **Council Members:** Chair Nick Hirshon (COAC), Thomas Fallace (COE), Kim Dimino (COSH), Andrey Kretinin (CCOB), Richard Huizar (COHSS), Jan Pinkston (Professional Staff Rep), Babita Srivastava (CCOB), David Williams (Library), Martin Williams/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.*

The Council decided at its Sept. 22 meeting to research different models of support for research and creative expression at peer and aspirational institutions as the first step toward creating a report to submit to the Faculty Senate at the end of the academic year. On Nov. 17, Council members presented their findings on how universities in New Jersey and beyond offer course reductions, sabbaticals, fellowships, grants, and access to research centers and portals. A report summarizing these findings was submitted to the Faculty Senate in May.

On March 25, Council members voted to approve the Open Access policy and sample opt-out waiver form letter drafted by Richard Kearney (Library).

*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 in Spring 2021. The Author's Reception, which had been cancelled the previous year due to the pandemic, was conducted online. Honors Week took place from April 12 to April 16.

During the 2019-2020 academic year, the Council discussed the possibility of a student survey, since there had been a dramatic year-to-year decrease in student submissions to Explorations 2020, with only 32 student posters, down from about 80 in 2019. The Council had agreed to contact Faculty Senate leaders to begin a conversation about the potential distribution of a survey to solicit student opinions on the impact of course scheduling on research projects. The Council proposed the survey include self-report measures for each college, as the needs of students may vary by discipline. Depending on the outcome of the student survey, a second survey could solicit the opinions of faculty who are conducting research. Shortly after conceiving this idea, the university transitioned to online operations. We propose including this in next year's charges.

*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. Assigned Research Time Application and Selection.*

The Council continued to hold discussions about this charge, particularly in relation to ART.

Additional Charges (Priorities for 2020-2021)

*1) Continue to research how universities similar to William Paterson University allot time for research and support faculty research with sabbaticals, course reductions, and other measures. Present suggestions for how WPU can continue to support faculty research.*

See above.

*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. Prepare a report for presenting this framework to the Senate.*

See above.

##### **5. Recommended Charges for the next Academic Year:**

1) Continue research on how universities provide faculty with blocks of dedicated research time.

2) Distribute a survey to solicit student opinions on the impact of course scheduling on research projects, particularly in light of a decrease of student submissions to Explorations 2020.