

## Year-End Report

1. **Council:** Research, Scholarship, and Creative Expression Council
2. **Academic Year:** 2019-2020
3. **Council Members:** Co-Chair Nick Hirshon (COAC), Co-Chair Lisa Warner (COE), Kim Dimino (COSH), Myles Garvey (CCOB), Richard Huizar (COHSS), Jan Pinkston (Professional Staff Rep), Babita Srivastava (CCOB), David Williams (Library), Martin Williams (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 invited Provost Powers to its Jan. 30 meeting to share his thoughts on the Council's 2017 Working Group Recommendations and Rationales and on former Provost Sandmann's response to those recommendations. Provost Powers outlined his views on each of the seven recommendations. In particular, he emphasized the importance of grant writing, encouraged the Council to identify models at similar institutions that provide blocks of time for research, advised that a freeze was in place on funding for faculty travel, reiterated his support for ART, and encouraged the Council to highlight faculty and student collaborations.

The Council debriefed at its Feb. 27 meeting and decided to proceed with the recommendations as follows:

- Recommendation 1: Clarify the Importance of Faculty RSCE Activity

Provost Powers advised the RSCE Council to hold off on this recommendation for now, pending discussions within colleges and departments.

- Recommendation 2: Consider Changes to Scheduling

The Council agreed to combine Recommendation 2, which proposes the creation of dedicated blocks of time for faculty research, with Recommendation 4, which proposes the refinement of Assigned Release Time (ART). The Council members began to research how universities similar in size and demographics to William Paterson create dedicated blocks of time for research and support faculty research with sabbaticals, course reductions, and other measures. Richard Huizar looked at San Francisco State and the University of Georgia. Both institutions encouraged faculty to apply for external grants that would fund a course release. Kim Dimino found block scheduling at Colorado College, Cornell College, Knox College, Tusculum University, and Spalding University, as well as institutions similar to WP in demographics: Marshall University (the Marshall Institute for Interdisciplinary Research – [www.marshall.edu/miir/](http://www.marshall.edu/miir/)), which is more research focused; and Kean University (Office of Research and Sponsored Programs – [www.kean.edu/offices/research-and-sponsored-programs](http://www.kean.edu/offices/research-and-sponsored-programs)), which is similar in geography and demographics.

**Commented [WD1]:** Charge for 20-21? Might need to do this proactively because of cuts to ART

- Recommendation 5: Create an RSCE Portal

The Council agreed to look into the creation of a conceptual framework for a Center for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Expression. The center would be responsible for managing an RSCE portal. The framework could then be presented to the Senate.

**Commented [WD2]:** Potential charge for 20-21

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

At the Feb. 27 meeting, the

Council discussed the possibility of a student survey, since there was

a dramatic year-to-year decrease in student submissions to Explorations 2020, with only 32 student posters, down from about 80 in 2019. In light of this drop, the Council co-chairs 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. The Council co-chairs contacted Faculty Senate leaders, but shortly afterward 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 held discussions about this charge, particularly in relation to ART.

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## Additional Charges (Priorities for 2019-2020)

1) Sponsor activities to clarify and articulate the meaning, value, and role of RSCE (Research, Scholarship and Creative Expression) activity by faculty and students with attention towards implementing the seven recommendations developed by the RSCE Working Group pertaining to connecting RSCE to the larger WPU community, ART, student-centered research, and research and art portals.

[See above.](#)

2) Develop and propose to Faculty Senate a university-wide Open Access policy.

The Council called Richard Kearney (Library) to its Nov. 13 meeting to discuss the Open Access policy. The Council suggested that Richard develop an FAQ sheet to address the most likely questions that faculty might have about the Open Access policy; Richard presented this FAQ sheet to the Council at its Dec. 4 meeting. Over the winter break, Council members reviewed and approved Richard's proposed FAQ sheet and a sample opt-out waiver form.

**Commented [LW3]:** David, Feel free to revise and edit this section.

At the April 28 meeting, Council member David Williams, reported back on the listening session that he and Richard had held with the College of Education. He said the College of Education seemed "very comfortable" with the policy. Due to the university closure, David and Richard were unable to meet with any other colleges. [Richard will wait until Spring 2021](#) to bring this to the Senate, after he has more time to receive feedback from other colleges, and after the Senate considers higher-priority issues, such as consolidation, in Fall 2020. The Council [suggests](#) the Open Access policy [be included again in next year's charges](#).

3) Review the activities associated with the week of presentations of research and creative expression entitled "Explorations"; collaborate with administration to review what worked well and what could be improved for 2019-2020.

Design students in Matthew Finn's class presented their proposals for potential Explorations 2020 posters to RSCE member David Williams on Dec. 10. At its Feb. 27 meeting, the Council voted among three potential posters and selected a Puerto Rico waterfall.

Due to the pandemic, Explorations took place virtually. [About twenty](#) percent of scheduled presenters submitted their presentations, which were posted [in the Explorations section](#) on the Office of Sponsored Programs [website](#) ([www.wpunj.edu/osp/explorations](http://www.wpunj.edu/osp/explorations)). The students and faculty in Kinesiology all uploaded their presentations, and Honors College students [gave prerecorded presentations in which they](#) spoke on camera or over their PowerPoint [slideshows](#). [The College of Education proceeded with the sponsored research session, virtually, in real time, via Zoom. There were eight research presentations and approximately fifty participants in attendance. Dean Ginsburg and Lisa Warner met several times to organize the sponsored session. All presenters attended a practice session the day before or morning of the session. Participants reported a positive virtual experience. Participants reported a positive virtual experience.](#)

**Commented [LW4]:**

**Commented [HN5R4]:**

*4) Change the name of the Research & Scholarship Council to the Research, Scholarship and Creative Expression Council.*

The Faculty Senate voted to approve the name change from the Research and Scholarship Council to the Research, Scholarship, and Creative Expression Council on Feb. 25.

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

1) Sponsor activities to clarify and articulate the meaning, value, and role of RSCE (Research, Scholarship and Creative Expression) activity by faculty and students with attention towards implementing the seven recommendations developed by the RSCE Working Group pertaining to connecting RSCE to the larger WPU community, ART, student-centered research, and research and art portals.

2) Develop and propose to Faculty Senate a university-wide Open Access policy.

3) Review the activities associated with the week of presentations of research and creative expression entitled "Explorations"; collaborate with administration to review what worked well and what could be improved for 2020-2021.

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

5) 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.

6) Develop the conceptual framework for a Center for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Expression for presentation to the Senate.