

ANNUAL REPORT
Date Due: August 19, 2015

University Research Committee

University of North Alabama
Florence, Alabama

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July 23, 2015
Date submitted

Submitted to: Dr. John G. Thornell, VPAA and
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Date received

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA

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2014-2015

I. Executive Summary

The Research Committee has been mostly dormant for several years. The original intent of this committee was to assist Dr. Tanja Blackstone, Director of Sponsored Programs on the allocation of internal university funds for faculty research. As these funds have not been available since 2011, this committee has not served much of a purpose. Therefore, the first and foremost decision facing this committee was to disband or find it a purpose.

Through discussion with the Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. John Thornell, it was decided not to disband the Research Committee. This academic year, the members of the committee discussed and recommended several ideas on purposes for this committee. Though the exact wording is not finalized, updated charge items include “To promote awareness of faculty and undergraduate research and scholarship efforts within the university,” and “to maintain a record of research and scholarly projects for which funding has been requested and/or received,” among other changes.

Another primary goal addressed this academic year was for the Research Committee to become more equitably represented by the university community. For instance, a faculty member from each college as well as a staff member would be desirable.

II. The Committee’s Charge (from the Shared Governance Document)

The charges of the University Research Committee are:

1. To serve as an advisory committee on the University’s research function and related issues
2. To serve as a screening board, recommending action for University released time and non-released time research grants (not including those grants given through individual college research committees)
3. To gather information on the University’s research efforts and related issues, and assess University performance in these areas in light of the information obtained
4. To propose changes in University policies, procedures, and practices on research and related issues

III. The Committee met on the following dates:

The Research Committee met on September 16, 2014. In addition, committee business, particularly in discussions related to updating the committee’s membership and charge, was conducted *via* e-mail.

IV. What were the Committee's actions and accomplishments this year relative to each of the items of the charge?

As stated in section I, above, the primary focus this academic year by this committee was updating its charge to become relevant in the current climate of the university where no internal faculty research funding is available.

V. What were the Committee's formal recommendations?

It was recommended and approved that a member of the Office of Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment be added as a voting member of this committee. The Staff Senate will recommend the individual to be added.

VI. What does the Committee plan to accomplish

A. In the coming year?

This committee will finalize its new charge language and begin to take action to uphold said charge. Also, this committee will look at changing its current composition to better represent the campus as a whole.

B. In future years?

In the future, when internal university funds (hopefully) become available to faculty researchers, this committee will work hand-in-hand with the Office of Sponsored Programs to distribute those funds to the most deserving recipients.

VII. What are the Committee's weaknesses?

As stated above, this committee is trying to remain relevant, but with no internal funding for research at this university, this committee is at a disadvantage. Also, this committee has discussed the need for equal representation by all colleges and both faculty and staff.

A. What can the Shared Governance Committee help you do to address the weaknesses?

With the addition of a staff member from OIRPA, some of the representation issues have been resolved, but there will be more membership changes proposed in the future.

VIII. Comments.