

# Faculty Senate Research Programs and Policies Committee

## Annual Report: Academic Year 2020-21

April 5, 2021

### Charge

The Research Programs and Policies Committee (RPPC) shall ensure an active faculty role in the formulation and evaluation of research policies. The Committee is charged with promoting faculty research and scholarly activities and advising university administration and the Faculty Senate on research policies. The committee is also called upon to assist in the dissemination of policies and guidelines ensuring implementation is consistent and clearly communicated to the broader university research community. *(Approved by the FSSC April 28, 2015)*

### Composition

10 Faculty (3 elected by UFS; 6 appointed by FSSC, and 4 ad-hoc members)

### Prepared By:

#### Elected Members:

Barrero, Carlos, School of Pharmacy, 215-707-9229, carlos.barrero@temple.edu, '23  
Kosmider, Beata, Lewis Katz School of Medicine, 215-707-9084, beata.kosmider@temple.edu, '23  
Li, Xiang (Robert), School of Sport, Tourism and Hospitality Management, 215-204-8784, robertli@temple.edu, '21

#### Appointed Members:

Hutapea, Parsaoran, College of Engineering, 215-204-7805, parsaoran.hutapea@temple.edu, '21  
Jordan, Will, College of Education, 215-204-6677, will.jordan@temple.edu, '21  
Picone, Joseph, ENGR, 1-4841, joseph.picone@temple.edu, 21  
Rom, Slava, LKSM, 215-707-9412, slava.rom@temple.edu, '24 (Chair)  
Stull, Judith, College of Education, 215-204-3012, judith.stull@temple.edu, '21  
Thomas, Elizabeth, College of Public Health, 215-204-1699, elizabeth.thomas@temple.edu, '24  
(Secretary)

#### Ad-Hoc Members:

Franco, Sergio R., College of Liberal Arts, 215-204-8285, fevette@temple.edu,  
Mandarano, Lynn, Tyler, Tyler School of Art, 215-777-9112, lynn.mandarano@temple.edu  
Merchan, Marisol Tellez, Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry, 215-707-1773, marisol.tellez.merchan@temple.edu  
Song, Jinsup, School of Podiatric Medicine, 215-625-5389, j.song@temple.edu

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Based on the results of previously conducted university-wide survey (Spring 2019), in May 2020, RPPC formed subcommittees to address these issues, planned the next survey, and submitted a final report to The Faculty Senate on the AC2019-20 survey. RPPC also spent considerable time in Fall 2020 clarifying the role of the RPPC and the manner in which it operates under and reports to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee.

The RPPC created questionnaire for a new 2020-21 survey and submitted it to the University Survey Committee in June 2020. However, this survey was delayed by University Survey Committee, with an excuse of the unexpected COVID-19 crisis, which delayed our progress this year.

However, we still made some progress this year and working on an action plan for AC2021-22.

### 1. INCREASING OUR REACH ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY

The RPPC has been redefining its mission over the past few years. Its major responsibility, which consisted of managing faculty research initiation awards, was terminated. In AC2020-21, we were in the middle of implementing a process that the RPPC will follow to function. In an agreement with Faculty Senate, RPPC provided monthly meeting minutes to the FSSC and vetted all communications outside the committee through the FSSC. There were extensive discussions about how the faculty survey should be conducted, but we hit a roadblock at the University Survey Committee and were promised by the current FSSC president and vice president that these issues would be resolved. We are still waiting for resolution.

### 2. COMMITTEE ACTIONS

We formed three subcommittees to study the issues, raised in the previous survey, as well as a fourth committee to design the new survey. The committees and membership are as follows:

| Committee                  | Description   | Membership  |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| A: Annual Faculty Survey   | Prepare and administer the annual faculty survey  | Stull, Judith<br>Barrero, Carlos<br>Song, Jinsup<br>Thomas, Elizabeth |
| B: Policies and Procedures | Address ways we can improve the efficiency of the research process (e.g. IRB, IACUC)  | Jordan, Will<br>Picone, Joseph<br>Li, Robert                          |
| C: Faculty Involvement     | Address an increased presence for the RPPC in the research process.   | Hutapea, Parsaoran<br>Franco, Sergio R.<br>Rom, Slava                 |
| D: Collaborations          | Improve the collaboration environment and facilitate connecting faculty to potential collaborators outside their colleges to support multidisciplinary efforts. | Kosmider, Beata<br>Merchan, Marisol Tellez<br>Mandarano, Lynn         |

We met with the Vice President for Research, Dr. Michelle Masucci, and discussed potential RPPC involvement and collaboration with OVPR.

Dr. Rom also participated in a meeting between the FSSC and union representatives (Dr. Donald Wargo) to discuss research policies regarding NTTs. After receiving a lot of complains from the NTTs in the previous survey, that many department chair demand from them to do research despite of being hired as teaching NTT, we (RPPC) issued a Memo which was sent to all university faculty, and resulted in this meeting. It was acknowledged that lack of clarity about NTTs' responsibilities is a problem in some colleges, and Dr. Rom reinforced that this issue is beyond the scope of our committee.

### **3. FUTURE PLANS**

The RPPC is still waiting on creation of web space so that we can begin building a means of communicating with faculty. This requirement is part of an outcome from the faculty survey that we need to increase awareness of a number of research-related resources.

We are still waiting for the results of the FSSC election for the upcoming year and are not sure about final membership list.