

University Enrichment Committee

End of Year Report 2016-2017

MEMBERSHIP:

Faculty: Roger Allen (Chair), Terry Beck, Erin Colbert-White (spring only), Mark Martin, Dawn Padula (fall only), Rachel Pepper, Renee Simms, Jess Smith, and Randy Worland

Students: Tyson West and Louisa Armstrong

Ex Officio: Sunil Kukreja (Associate Dean)

Senate Liaison: Bill Haltom

MEETING DATES:

Fall 2016: September 7, October 26, November 16, November 30, and December 8

Spring 2017: January 23, February 14, March 6, April 18, and May 5

GENERAL UEC ACTIVITY:

The UEC has successfully completed, or will have completed by the end of the spring 2017 semester, all of the regular yearly duties assigned, including evaluating and awarding student research proposals in the fall (November) and spring (April), evaluating and awarding faculty research proposals in the fall (December) and spring (March), hosting the Register Lecture (November), evaluating and awarding Release Time Awards for faculty (February), determining the recipient of the Dirk Andrew Phibbs Award (May), and the evaluation of nominations for the purpose of selecting the 2018 Register Lecturer (May).

SENATE CHARGES: The UEC has the following standing charges set forth in The Faculty Bylaws:

The duties of the Committee shall be:

1. To promote the professional growth of the Faculty by seeking and receiving funds for research and travel, to budget and allocate such funds, and to receive and approve research and travel reports.
2. To seek and allocate funds for student research.
3. To seek nominations and select the Register lecturer.
4. To support Faculty leaves such as sabbaticals, grant-assisted leaves, and exchanges.
5. Such other duties as may be assigned to it.

The Senate's sole additional charge ("such other duties as may be assigned to it") to the 2016-2017 UEC, as provided by Senate liaison Bill Haltom was:

“In addition to the ongoing charges in The Faculty Bylaws, the Faculty Senate charges the University Enrichment Committee a) to determine whether there is a need to establish a guideline for funding on-line, public-access fees for publication and, if the UEC determines there is such a need, b) to create and publish the guideline.”

UEC ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO STANDING CHARGES:

Over the course of the academic year, the committee reviewed faculty research funding proposals, student research funding proposals, and faculty proposals for release time. Faculty proposals were submitted and reviewed in both the fall and spring semesters, while student proposals were reviewed in the fall and spring, with an additional early-bird submission opportunity for student proposals offered in September 2016. Faculty release time proposals were reviewed early in the spring semester, with five requests for regular 1.0 release units recommended for approval, in addition to a recommendation to approve one Civic Scholarship release time proposal supported by the Center for Strategic Issues.

<https://www.pugetsound.edu/files/resources/release-time-guidelines-form-2017.pdf>

During the previous two years, the committee did a considerable amount of work revising evaluation guidelines and rubrics for assessing submitted funding proposals, so as to increase transparency of evaluation process, ensure coherence with application guidelines, and provide consistency for comparison across reviewers. This work and the revised rubrics have greatly aided the committee’s review work this year and thanks are extended to past committee’s for their thoughtful efforts to bring this about.

At the time of preparation and presentation (April 3) of this report to the Faculty Senate, the work of this year’s UEC is not yet complete. Two more scheduled meetings remain where we will be evaluating spring proposals for student research support (April 18) and selecting the 2018 Register lecturer & 2016-2017 Phibbs Award recipient (May 5). The call for nominations for the Register Lecture has gone out to the campus community and we are awaiting nominations (April 7 deadline). The Dirk Andrew Phibbs Award winner is selected annually by the UEC from among faculty proposals submitted during the academic year. While this is not specifically cited as a standing charge to the UEC in The Faculty Bylaws, the February 26, 1999 Memorandum of Understanding that established the award specifically states:

Recipients should be tenured and have at least 10 years of service with the University. They should be chosen by the University Enrichment Committee and be selected on the quality of their teaching and their plan for the travel year. Recipients should submit a report to the Enrichment Committee by the beginning of the semester immediately following their return.

It is recommended that, at some point in the reasonable future, UEC standing charges in The Faculty Bylaws be revised to specifically cite the committee’s role and obligations in reference to this annual award.

The Associate Dean’s office and UEC also hosted the 44th Register Lecture and reception in the

Tahoma Room of Thomas hall on November 10, 2016. The event was very well attended, with both seating (for 160) and standing room capacity exceeded (quite a number of people had to be turned away, or listened to the lecture from the lobby area). The following is a link to the program for this year's lecture:

https://www.pugetsound.edu/files/resources/pev17regprog_print.pdf

UEC ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO SENATE CHARGE:

“In addition to the ongoing charges in The Faculty Bylaws, the Faculty Senate charges the University Enrichment Committee a) to determine whether there is a need to establish a guideline for funding on-line, public-access fees for publication and, if the UEC determines there is such a need, b) to create and publish the guideline.”

The 2015-2016 UEC began substantive discussion regarding the funding of on-line and public access publication fees. The following is an excerpt from UEC Chair Dawn Padula's previous End of Year Report to the faculty senate that set the stage for this year's activities on the matter:

4. Discussion Surrounding UEC Funding of On-Line Public Access Publication Fees

During our evaluation of faculty research proposals this year, it was noted that there were requests to cover fees for open-access on-line publications. After further discussion, the consensus was that this is a growing issue since open-access and online publications are becoming more prominent. Our current guidelines stipulate that the UEC will not cover "vanity press" publication charges, but there is not any established criteria published for handling these types of publication cost requests.

Discussion surrounded this issue, including potential ways of handling the issue in the future if necessary. The outcome of the discussion was that next year's UEC could perhaps determine the need for establishing a guideline to this effect and if one was deemed necessary, fleshing it out and publishing it.

Regarding section “a” of this year's senate charge, the UEC first determined unanimously that “yes” there is a need to establish such a guideline. We then moved on to part “b” to draft and publish an appropriate guideline.

We met as a committee on several occasions with librarian Ben Tucker. He did a tremendous amount of background work and educated the committee regarding the lay of the land in the domain of on-line publication. He subsequently attended and consulted at all our meetings as the guideline was drafted and finally approved. (Without Ben, we would have made a mess of this thing - seriously.) A subcommittee consisting of Rachel Pepper, Renee Simms, and Jess Smith volunteered to take on drafting initial language for the committee to review and then incorporate committee feedback into a final document. (This subcommittee composition was quasi-intentional, in that Rachel and Renee will be our only two current committee members continuing on with the UEC next year and we wanted to ensure that the historical perspective and rationales that gave rise to the guideline could be passed on.)

It became very clear that on-line/open-access publishing is a rapidly evolving landscape (understatement). Given that, we did not think it prudent to draft language that was so specific to current conditions that it would have a very short shelf life and require constant research and revision. The final drafted policy is quite appropriately succinct and covers funding guidelines for both print and electronic publication costs. This will be incorporated into the Description/Eligibility section of the Faculty Research funding application instructions (combined with elimination of the existing footnote).

https://www.pugetsound.edu/files/resources/faculty-research-guidelines-and-form-2016-iacuc_s2-2.pdf Since this policy will go into effect for faculty research proposals beginning fall 2017, the Committee decided to hold inclusion of this new policy on the webpage until the end of the spring 2017 semester. The policy document may be found in Appendix I.

SUGGESTED SENATE CHARGES FOR NEXT YEAR'S COMMITTEE:

Beyond the standing charges set forth in The Faculty Bylaws, the committee has no recommendations at this time for additional Senate charges for next year's committee. Completing the work of the standing charges supplies a quite full agenda throughout the academic year.

The Bylaws indicate that the UEC be comprised of no more fewer than 7 faculty members. The current membership has 9. Given how innovations into proposal review and division of effort, that were implemented over the past three years, has helped with committee efficiency, it may be quite feasible to return the committee to a size of 7 faculty members if need be. The diversity of cross-campus opinion and perspectives when considering proposals is highly valued and this would not be compromised with a slightly smaller committee size, given balanced cross-disciplinary assignment to the committee. It could also serve to streamline a bit both discussion and consensus decision making.

CONCLUSION:

The work of the University Enrichment Committee this year was extremely collegial, focused, efficient, and productive. In addition to handling the regular duties assigned, the committee completed all work on the new Senate charge for the year, hosted the Register Lecture, and will be selecting the 2016-2017 Phibbs Award recipient. The committee wishes to extend very special thanks to Ben Tucker for his invaluable and patient participation and consultation through the process of drafting a publication funding guideline.

It was both an honor and a constant pleasure to serve with this wonderful group of faculty colleagues and students in supporting faculty and student scholarship, creativity, and innovation.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Allen, PhD, PT - UEC Chair 2016-17, Professor of Physical Therapy

APPENDIX I

UEC Funding of Publication Costs Guideline

Proposal: To eliminate the section on publication limitations from the footnote and instead add a new paragraph to the eligibility/description section.

https://www.pugetsound.edu/files/resources/faculty-research-guidelines-and-form-2016-iacuc_s2-2.pdf

Publication costs are considered for funding when there is evidence of readiness for publication and the applicant has tried to negotiate or cover these costs in other ways. Publication costs are typically funded up to 80% of the total cost. These costs include page charges, required open access costs, image licensing fees, etc.

The committee will consider funding journal publication fees if all of the following requirements are met:

- The journal is peer-reviewed
- The publication charge is required to publish the work in the chosen journal
- The applicant has tried to negotiate down the publication fees
- The applicant shows evidence of pursuing other funding sources to cover this cost
- The applicant makes a strong case in their narrative that this particular publication venue is necessary¹ (e.g., for open access journals, the journal is listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals)

¹ Collins Memorial Library has resources available to help evaluate open access journal options, and subject librarians are also able to offer assistance.
