

Faculty Development Committee, Senate
February Report, 2022

The Faculty Development Committee is working on three issues at this time:

- 1) Undergraduate research compensation (progress, but clarifying documentation in development)
- 2) Effects of the Pandemic on Faculty (two subcommittees)
- 3) Clarification of the processes associated with grants and research

Issue #1:

Grace May and Martin Edwards have met with Peter Shoemaker several times. He did develop an initial document outlining the steps associated with compensating undergraduates involved in research. Feedback included reframing the document to reflect two different processes. Grace will circle back for the status of this revision.

Issue #2:

Two subcommittees are addressing the charge by the provost's office and the executive committee.

- Research and Scholarship Effects. Natalie Neubauer is leading this group. The group has met, generated areas for investigation, and Grace is seeking university reports to support their efforts. As of now, a summary of grants awarded since 2019 have been received. We are awaiting similar reports related to scholarship. The process for acquiring these seems more layered.
- Well-being. Grace is leading this group. The group has met and generated areas for investigation.

At some point in the near future, the FDC will request permission to send a survey to faculty related to these areas.

Issue #3:

This work was recently given to the FDC and is just underway. More information will be shared by the next senate report.

Respectfully submitted,
Grace May

Summary Notes
First meetings of FDC subgroups-Effects of the Pandemic on Faculty

Research Group:

- Ask the provost the data they want then create a survey to give out to focus groups across Schools within the institution.
 - a. What does the provost see as the major issue? Need to see prior research production data to compare to the present? Also need to know what is used in that measurement. Who has the data and how can we access it?
- What factors/challenges can or cannot be changed due to university structure
- Do libraries have data on trends in traffic during the pandemic

Well-being (includes some connection to teaching)—topics discussed

- Research “re-charge” days being offered by some companies. Are universities providing a similar option? If not, would SHU be willing to consider serving as a model?
- Advocate for mandatory 5 minute breaks between meetings. In the current structure, meetings can run back-to-back with no breaks for several hours.
- Examine the possibilities of a continuum of teaching that began with Covid. The ‘genie’ is out of the bottle in terms of some students and faculty positively responding to options in delivery.
- Are there potential policy changes, such as the mandatory 5 minute break between meetings, that need to be developed in response to Covid? If there were positive experiences from Covid, what policy changes might emerge from that?
- Would it be possible to survey faculty, SHORT, about their sense of well-being? Can we combine this with a few questions from the research group?