

Faculty Development Committee of the Senate
March Report, 2022

The Faculty Development Committee is actively working on two projects.

- 1) Provost and EC charge regarding effects of the pandemic.
- 2) Review of the grants/research process.

Item #1: Effects of the pandemic.

- Two subcommittees (research and well-being) have met, shared resources, and are working on the development of a joint survey to be shared with faculty. The goal is to have a working draft of the survey completed by the third week of March.
- We have been trying to locate data about faculty research, across a series of years, to serve as a baseline for this work. Relatedly, we have been trying to determine the total number of faculty across a series of years.
 - The fact books for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 (pages 24-25) provide some information. However, how faculty are counted (who is in and who is left out) varies from one year to the next. We will continue to search for this data.
 - In terms of faculty research, Sharon Ince was able to share the following.

Below is the link to Scopus and the SHU Profile. This will not give us a complete picture but does offer a snapshot of publications. (Sharon Ince)

Link to Scopus: <https://library.shu.edu/scopus>

SHU faculty publications

Year	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2022	(31) >
<input type="checkbox"/> 2021	(255) >
<input type="checkbox"/> 2020	(303) >
<input type="checkbox"/> 2019	(277) >
<input type="checkbox"/> 2018	(267) >
<input type="checkbox"/> 2017	(274) >
<input type="checkbox"/> 2016	(242) >
<input type="checkbox"/> 2015	(220) >
<input type="checkbox"/> 2014	(239) >
<input type="checkbox"/> 2013	(221) >
View less	View all

Item #2: Grants/research process

- The chair of the FDC, Grace May, had an initial meeting with Michael LaFontaine.
 - The results of that meeting were shared with the research subcommittee. Natalie Neubauer, chair of that group, arranged for a follow up meeting for the entire committee to meet with Michael LaFontaine.

Notes from the initial interview between Grace May and Michael LaFontaine are provided below:

The answers provided are not verbatim, but taken from my notes (Grace).

Dr. LaFontaine indicated a willingness to answer any additional questions or meet with the FDC.

Question: When submitting the [Intent to Apply](#) form for external funding, what else must accompany it?

Answer: Along with the Intent form, the proposed budget must accompany it.

- The intent form must be reviewed and approved by the department chair, as well as by the dean.
- Prior conversations with the OGRS, about the application materials, does not mean the intent form has been 'approved' by that office.
 - Approval moves from the department to dean, to the director of OGRS, and finally to the provost.

Question: Have there been any major changes to the grants process over the past few years?

Answer: The *process* remains the same. What has changed is the consistent application of policies, across units, in alignment with federal guidelines.

- An example is that some prior OGRS directors approved release time *and* academic stipends within the academic year. Examination of federal code and survey of other higher education grants' offices indicate this is not standard practice.

Question: The current PI Handbook is presented as multiple documents. Is there a single PI Handbook document?

Answer: This connects to the issue of an improved webpage. OGRS has been working with IT to update the website. Some of the expected changes include training modules to help faculty learn about specific aspects of the grant process and a more accessible PI Handbook.

Question: What is the role of MacAllister and Quinn?

Answer: This is an external firm that provides assistance with writing and grant support. Currently it is working on two grants. In addition, when some larger grant applications are prepared with time for review, the firm is providing a read/review.

- Focus: increasing underrepresented students in STEM studies (including women)
- McNair: supporting underrepresented undergraduates to transition to graduate studies (masters and doctoral)

Question: Some other institutions have grant writers to support faculty. What is your understanding of that role?

Answer: A grant writer does *not* convert the kernel of a faculty member's idea to a fully researched and written final product. Grant writers provide support to build the essential structure needed for a well-developed grant. The faculty member is the lead person in the process.

- Larger institutions might have grant specialists for different areas, such as the sciences or humanities. No single grant writer would be expert enough to address the diversity of research interests at any institution.

Feedback from the follow-up meeting March 3, 2022 (Natalie Neubauer notes).

- Original fears of funding drying up was not realized. More money under Biden administration for federal grants. Robust efforts to restore funding levels. Federal agencies trying to realign with different funding areas.
- Northeast was reduced traffic for patient-based research because limiting non visitors to the facility (hospital and schools)
- Private sector foundations offering the same type of programs, impact on availability of funds was early with endowments
- Volatility of the market affected funding at certain points or people's perspectives on what was available. People assumed cuts on funding available which did not happen.

Respectfully Submitted,
Grace May