

**Norman Campus Research Council
2017-2018 Annual Report to the Faculty Senate
Submitted by Pamela Genova, Chair**

Across six years of Research Council funding, there have been 308 awards with an investment of \$2,481,907. The external funding return came through 47 awards amounting to \$8,950,163 – at least 3.5 times what was invested (this figure is based on the reports received, from only 56% of the awards).

The research scholarly and creative works that resulted are impressive as well: 160 presentations, 80 publications, and 25 artistic creations.

Membership

The members of the 2017-2018 Research Council, their departments and terms:

Richard Cifelli	Biology/Sam Noble OK Museum	2015-18
Pamela Genova, Chair	Modern Languages Literatures & Linguistics	2015-18
Susan Hahn	University Libraries	2015-18
Deborah Trytten	Computer Science	2015-18
Norman Wong	Communication	2015-18
Julia Ehrhardt*	Honors	2016-19
Michael Givel*	Political Science	2016-19
Gary Hoover	Economics	2016-19
Allison Palmer	Visual Arts	2016-19
Scott Russell	Microbiology & Plant Biology	2016-19
Stuart Asprey	Visual Arts	2017-20
Lee Fithian	Architecture	2017-20
Rebecca Huskey	Classics & Letters	2017-20
Li Song	Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering	2017-20
Stephen Westrop**	Geology & Geophysics/Sam Noble OK Museum	2017-20

Ex-Officio Members:

Kelvin Droegemeier	Vice President for Research
Alicia Knoedler	Executive Associate Vice President for Research, and Executive Director of the Center for Research Program Development & Enrichment

Secretary:

Susan Dubbs	Center for Research Program Development & Enrichment
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* Professor Deborah Trytten joined the Council in August 2017 to complete Professor James Shaffer's term. Professor Michael Givel joined the Council in January 2017 to complete Professor Claude Miller's term. Professor Julia Ehrhardt joined the Council in August 2017 to complete Professor Su Fang Ng's term.

Professors Cifelli, Genova, Hahn, Trytten, and Wong completed their terms at the end of the 2017-2018 academic year. **The 2018-2019 Chair of the Research Council was elected at the April 2018 meeting and will be Dr. Stephen Westrop, Department of Geology & Geophysics/Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History.

The Faculty Senate Appointments to replace Stuart Asprey, Richard Cifelli, Susan Hahn, Deborah Trytten, and Norman Wong, and the Presidential Appointment to replace Pamela Genova will be forthcoming.

In 2013, the Faculty Senate approved a plan to balance the Research Council membership to reflect the disciplines represented by recent patterns among submitted proposals. The new structure for the Research Council began in 2014-2015, and is as follows at the end of the 2017-2018:

- Engineering, Energy, Mathematical and Physical Sciences (3 members): Li Song, Deborah Trytten, and Stephen Westrop
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 members): Michael Givel, Gary Hoover, and Norman Wong
- Life Sciences (2 members): Richard Cifelli and Scott Russell
- Humanities (3 members): Julia Ehrhardt, Pamela Genova, and Rebecca Huskey
- Education/Professional/Other (2 members): Susan Hahn and Lee Fithian
- Fine Arts (2 members): Stuart Asprey and Allison Palmer

Activities (2017-2018)

The primary activity of the Research Council during the 2017-2018 academic year was to advise and make recommendations to the Vice President for Research (VPR) pertaining to awards and honors under his administration, namely

- Faculty Investment Program (Up to \$15,000)
- Junior Faculty Fellowships (\$7,000 + Fringe)
- George Lynn Cross Research Professorship (recommendation to President)
- Henry Daniel Rinsland Memorial Award for Excellence in Educational Research

A summary of the Research Council funding and award recommendations approved by the VPR for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 will be available on the Research Council's website. Statistics concerning the programs supported by the Research Council as of May 31, 2018 are attached.

The Research Council devoted much time and discussion to funding programs, award nominations and additional issues.

- Faculty Investment Program (FIP) – The Faculty Investment Program provides funding on a competitive basis to develop and expand the scholarly (i.e., research and creative) activities of Norman campus researchers, including researchers associated with Norman Campus Programs at OU-Tulsa. The FIP is designed to provide maximum flexibility in meeting researcher needs via strategic investment of funds with a high degree of expectation and accountability. Ultimately, FIP is expected to enhance the national and international reputation of the University of Oklahoma via excellence in scholarship. FIP projects are not necessarily expected to lead to external funding; but each application is carefully evaluated to consider how the project will advance the applicants' research, scholarship, or creative activity in a significant way. The maximum award under the FIP is \$15,000, and proposals are welcome in any amount up to the maximum. During fiscal year 2018, there were 55 FIP requests submitted to the Research Council, and 23 awards were funded for a total of \$314,968.
- Junior Faculty Fellowship Program (JFF) – This program is designed to help new tenure-track faculty members establish their research/creative activity and make progress toward tenure by providing support in areas critical to the development of their programs. The program is restricted to tenure-track assistant professors who are in the first four years of their tenure-track position at the University. The \$7,000 (plus fringe benefits) awards can be used as summer (June and July) stipends to enable faculty members to carry out full time research during that period. However, the awards also can be used to support research travel, equipment, and personnel costs; faculty members are urged to use the awards in a manner that provides maximum benefit to their research programs. A faculty member receiving an award is expected to make a one-month commitment to research during the summer. Faculty members who have not acquired a terminal degree by the deadline for application, associate and full professors, instructors, and visiting appointees are not eligible for this program. Also, because of the limited number of available awards, faculty cannot receive more than two JFF awards, and faculty who have other sources of summer salary support receive lower priority. In February 2018, 17 proposals were selected from 54 submissions to receive Junior Faculty

Fellowships (one award was subsequently declined due to the applicant leaving the University). Most requested the funds to be used for salary; however, there were a few faculty who submitted budgets that included supplies or research travel, resulting in differing award amounts. The amounts ranged from \$6,055 to \$9,310 and the total funding amount for the program was \$133,323.

- There were 9 fewer FIP submissions than last year. The number of FIP submissions has varied since the program's inception, ranging from 35 to 64. However, the number of JFF proposal submissions remained the same at 54 submissions.
- The Council has been very focused on budget appropriateness and the amount of detail provided within the budget and budget justification. During the Summer of 2018, the budget guidance for both the FIP and JFF programs will be updated and refined to reflect Council members' concerns and to aide applicants.
- A clarification was made to the Research Council information regarding representation to account for interdisciplinary departments. The clarification is as follows: Tenured faculty from interdisciplinary programs such as African and African-American Studies, Environmental Studies, Native American Studies, Religious Studies, Women's & Gender Studies, and the Honors College, and any additional programs that serve as the academic home for tenure-line faculty are eligible to serve on the Research Council. However, their primary scholarly approach and/or research methodology will determine their appointment area; given the programs above, faculty will typically fit within the Social and Behavioral Sciences or the Humanities areas.
- In July 2016, the Council shifted to a reimbursement system for distributing funds to for FIP and JFF awards. The reimbursements are made to the award recipient's department once the final report has been completed. This change has increased the completion rate of final reports for the FIP and JFF programs and has resulted in the return of unused funds to reinvest into funding future FIP and JFF proposals. The final report requirements will be reviewed and clarified using information gathered during first two years of implementation.
- Dr. Alicia Knoedler presented information to interested faculty during the Fall at the Faculty Investment Program (FIP) Reality Check Meeting, the Junior Faculty Fellowship (JFF) Reality Check Meeting, and the George Lynn Cross Award Meeting. These informational sessions were well attended with 53 registrants for the FIP Meeting, 40 registrants for the JFF meeting and 29 registrants for the GLC meeting.
- The Council reviewed nominations and made recommendations to the Provost for the George Lynn Cross Research Professorship. The Council recommended the following faculty for recognition of their success and accomplishments: Professor Wayne Thomas, Professor Xiangming Xiao, and Professor Ming Xue.
- There were no nominations received for the Henry Daniel Rinsland Memorial Award for Excellence in Educational Research.

On behalf of the Research Council, the Chair would like to thank Vice President for Research, Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier, for his enthusiasm, energetic leadership, and unique vision in reshaping the research landscape at the University of Oklahoma. The Research Council also thanks Dr. Alicia Knoedler, Executive Associate Vice President for Research and Executive Director of the Center for Research Program Development & Enrichment, for her efforts on behalf of the Council and for her support of the OU faculty in their efforts to produce quality research and creative activity. At the May meeting, the Vice President for Research presented the outgoing members Stuart Asprey (served 2017-18), Richard Cifelli (served 2015-18), Pamela Genova (served 2015-18), Susan Hahn (served 2015-18), Deborah Trytten (served 2017-18), and Norman Wong (served 2015-18) with clocks to show their appreciation for the members' service.

Academic Year 2017-2018 Discipline	Faculty Investment Program					
	Number of Proposals Submitted	Number of Awards	Average Award	Funding Rate	Percentage of Total Program Expenditures	Percentage of Total Number Awarded
Engineering/Physical Sciences	17	7	\$13,321	41%	30%	30%
Social and Behavioral Sciences	9	4	\$14,934	44%	19%	17%
Life Sciences	9	5	\$14,510	56%	23%	22%
Humanities	8	4	\$12,969	50%	16%	17%
Fine Arts	9	2	\$11,779	22%	7%	9%
Education/Professional/Other	3	1	\$14,000	33%	4%	4%
Totals	55	23	\$13,694	42%	100%	100%

Academic Year 2017-2018 Discipline	Junior Faculty Fellowship Program					
	Number of Proposals Submitted	Number of Awards	Average Award	Funding Rate	Percentage of Total Program Expenditures	Percentage of Total Number Awarded
Engineering/Physical Sciences	14	6	\$9,200	43%	39%	35%
Social and Behavioral Sciences	21	2	\$6,976	10%	10%	12%
Life Sciences	3	1	\$6,055	33%	4%	6%
Humanities	9	6	\$8,485	67%	36%	35%
Fine Arts	3	0	\$0	0%	0%	0%
Education/Professional/Other	4	2	\$8,258	50%	12%	12%
Totals	54	17	\$8,390	31%	100%	100%

Year	FIP Budget Allocation	JFF Budget Allocation	Total VPR Budget Allocation	FIP Funding Awarded	JFF Funding Awarded	Total VPR Funding Awarded
2012-2013	\$225,000	\$175,000	\$400,000	\$301,738	\$151,188	\$452,926
2013-2014	\$275,000	\$150,000	\$425,000	\$278,107	\$149,276	\$427,383
2014-2015	\$275,000	\$150,000	\$425,000	\$257,377	\$182,720	\$440,097
2015-2016	\$275,000	\$150,000	\$425,000	\$291,535	\$133,014	\$424,549
2016-2017	\$250,000	\$150,000	\$400,000	\$289,690	\$145,980	\$435,670
2017-2018	\$250,000	\$150,000	\$400,000	\$314,968	\$142,633	\$457,601