SM Division Meeting Minutes

Feb. 20, 2017

Present: Dan G., Brian W., Pat B., Tim C., Michael R., Rebecca A., Corinne Wagner, Fred S., Jim M., Scott W., Gloria T., Maria S., Chad B., Mary K., Suman B., Dan R., Mamunur R., Dana D., Sara L., Lynn B., David H., Steven B., Jacob H., Dave Berque, Naima S., Sharon C., Pascal L., Wade H., John C., Susan Anthony, Bryan H., Carrie Klaus, Melissa P., Anne Harris, Pam P., Jackie R.

Issues

--How does institution view research with students: research, service, teaching?

--SM faculty are the only ones who have research w/ students as requirement in Appendix B

--Adequate compensation (e.g., financial, teaching credit)?

--Adequate financial resources for research materials?

Summer

--Fewer faculty volunteering (Carrie K. confirmed this)

--Faculty stipend has stayed flat; student stipend has increased (but enough? Competitive with other jobs they could get over the summer, especially for traditionally underserved students?)

--Work-life balance (faculty may want some time for summer vacation and 10-week commitment may not match with Greencastle school system summer break)

--Enough resources for materials?

--Faculty pay docked if attend workshop or conference

--Single deadline for FDC applications (for some it’s too early, for others too late)

--SRF students don’t get to choose their project in same way that other summer research students do

Carrie Klaus clarified some issues: FDC expectation is faculty and student are in the same location for the duration of research. Equity issue—some faculty would let FDC or Dean of Faculty know when they’re away at conference, but others wouldn’t. As long as it’s not more than a week of faculty absence and there is a back-up sponsor, faculty pay isn’t docked.

Initial suggestions

--More organized/transparent process for identifying which faculty are doing research

--Rotations within departments so people don’t get burnt out and all departments represented

--Tangible compensation for faculty sponsoring student research

--Greater flexibility in summer schedule (shorter sessions available?)

--Departments could guarantee X number of summer research spots and get guaranteed funds

--Build greater sense of community among the summer research students

--Greater coordination with SRF

Anne Harris asked for clarification: Is there no widely shared document about who’s doing research, etc. No.

How many FDC summer student-faculty research grants each year? Carrie K—about 10 projects, but includes more students. High was about 100 students per summer, but now it’s gone down to 40-50ish for last few years. FDC has worked hard to find money for proposals if they seemed strong and ready to go, so if departments feel that they’re being neglected, she would like to know. If we raise the stipend for faculty, that’s less money available to sponsor students. Is it the money that’s the deterrent to faculty sponsoring summer students?

Sharon C—She and Rich Martoglio shared a student one summer, each faculty member responsible for the student for a month and it worked well. Maybe FDC could more actively solicit proposals in this way.

Mary K—for small departments, might be good if they could plan ahead and maybe multiple faculty sponsor students one summer (so there’s a cohort) and then maybe none the following summer.

Dana D.—seems to be more student interest than faculty can meet. Might be good if departments know earlier which faculty members want to take summer research students.

Berque—when CS doesn’t have enough positions, they encourage students to apply to REUs elsewhere.

Anne H—Does it have to be research at DePauw? If faculty are going elsewhere for summer research, can they take students with them? Lynn B. had a student work with her at IUPUI.

Pam—Faculty mostly tenured and promoted, and may not be motivated to take summer research students. Seems like an equity issue if burden falls on junior people.

John C—Survey might be helpful to find out what issues are relevant for faculty, regarding their desire and ability to take summer students.

Dan G—An advantage of the SRF program is that it gives students a guaranteed summer research experience, so it would be helpful for SRF if they had more data to plan. Often times they go back to the same faculty over and over again. Office of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (there was a proposal from a group of faculty about this last year)—might help to organize opportunities. Maybe rotation like we used to have for teaching Winter Term.

We are meeting the demands of students with FDC money, but a lot of students don’t apply because there aren’t faculty who are willing to work with them (so maybe we aren’t really meeting the student demand for student summer research opportunities).

Sharon—Ethics program has really helped create summer community. Has SRF tried to recruit applicants who match faculty/department interest?

Dan G—it’s hard because we need to know faculty interest not just for one year, but for the next four years.

Wade—What do you see as the advantage of having SRF program versus none? Dan G—packages resources, guarantees student on-campus summer research experience. Wade—but research area doesn’t necessarily match student interest. To Anne, advantages of SRF vs. if it was a more university-wide “student-research” experience? Anne—SRF doesn’t really yield that many students in terms of recruiting (maybe 10 a year). But positive is that it does ensure a student research experience. Before we were to move to a different model, would need to have wide-spread support for OURSCA (Office of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity).

Dana D—What about “valorizing” research during the semester? What about research courses for credit during the semester? A course with SRF and other students?

Michael R—Psychology senior thesis program allows for some crediting of faculty research supervision, but doesn’t help students who aren’t seniors.

Anne H—Pascal’s model, grant-funded. Multiple models we might be able to pursue (i.e., grants, summer, curricular research). She can fund-raise for embedded research experiences in the classroom, if that’s what we’re interested in.

Brian W—Summer research can be of a different quality than semester research, but students can make more money with alternative summer jobs. Greater flexibility is needed.

Carrie—How much money would make it worthwhile for students to be here over the summer, have to think about housing cost?