

Section I

Name of Committee: Research and Creative Activities Committee (RCAC)

Submitted by: Pauline Davies

Date Submitted: 22nd April 2022

Membership Roster:

- Pauline Davies (Chair); Shirly Montero Quesada, Barry Moon, Steve Helms Tillery, Rebecca Lee, Elena Rocchi, Michael Todd, Hugh Barnaby,

Ex officio membership: Neal Woodbury, Eduardo Pagán,

Overview Narrative:

The following summarizes committee work accomplished throughout this past year:

The RCAC completed the work pertaining to RFC-149, The Ethics of Using Data of Questionable or Illegal Origin. This RFC was suggested by the Provost's office and opened in 2018. It was prompted by a case at ASU of a junior faculty member who wanted to use hacked corporate data in their research and the university decided to not allow this.

In order to guide faculty who are considering using data of questionable origin, the RCAC developed a flow chart in 2020-2021. However, the RCAC could not agree on the membership criteria of a review committee to handle cases that were not obviously ruled in or out by the flow chart. This year, after consultations and negotiations with the Provost's office, Office of General Counsel, the Office of Research Integrity and Assurance and ASU Knowledge Enterprise, the RCAC agreed that there should be an ad hoc review committee composed of 3 members, one each from the Provost's office, Knowledge Enterprise and the University Senate to examine contentious or difficult decisions regarding the use of such data. The committee member of the Senate shall be nominated by the Senate President. After using the flow chart, if a faculty member feels the need for the committee's guidance, they should contact the Manager of the University Senate who will convene the ad hoc committee.

Since the Provost's Office and Knowledge Enterprise have agreed the wording of the flow chart and accompanying document, we are hopeful that the Provost will decide to accept the results of our deliberations and promote the flow chart to faculty.

Section II

Request for Consultations and/or topics reviewed by the committee and outcomes (topics reviewed by the committee decided not to act/review should be listed here with, no action taken):

Office of the University Senate

Section III

Request for Consultations and/or topics that were not started or remain unfinished and need to be carried over to the next academic year.

No new RFCs were opened this academic year.

Section IV

Recommendations to the Senate or Final Comments

We recommend that the Provost supports the findings of the RCAC regarding the use of data of questionable origin and disseminates the information and flow chart to faculty via the ASU website. Since our work on this (RFC-149) is finished, we recommend that it be closed.
