

Research and Creative Activities Committee  
Annual Report, 2014-2015

The Research and Creative Activities Committee (RCA) was established by the University Senate in the Fall, 2008. According to the Senate motion, the RCA is advisory to the Vice President for Knowledge Enterprise Development on

“policies and programs to promote, enhance, and govern research and creative activities. It serves as a review body for policies in the research manual and issues brought to it by the Vice President. The Committee may undertake studies of issues that pertain to its mission.”

The RCA has two subcommittees, one for Misconduct in Research and the other for Classified Research.

A previous imbalance of committee members was rectified this year. However, one of two positions subject to appointment by the Vice President could not be filled.

In light of some misunderstandings that have arisen about the scope of the faculty and Senate requirements in RSP-404 regarding classified and proprietary research, a suggestion was made by the OKED staff that this policy might best be located in the ACD manual. The suggestion was taken to the Senate Executive Committee, and a motion was submitted to the Senate and adopted. During administrative review, some concerns were raised that a different approach might be needed. The motion was not approved, and discussions are continuing.

A change in policy regarding the High Performance Computing (A2C2) resources was raised by numerous faculty. After discussion, the RCA recommended that a motion be submitted to the Senate to form a Task Force to study the issue. The Task Force consisted of four members each from the RCA and USFC, and a representative of the library. A final report was submitted to the Senate in April.

There were no cases of misconduct in research during the past year. There were also no new proposals for classified research. An off-campus classified research project, where the University serves as a financial management agent, is continuing.