

Date: March 5, 2026
To: Academic Senate
From: Jessica DeShazo, Chair
Academic Senate Executive Committee
Copies: R. Roquemore
Subject: **Proposed New Policy: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities Policy Committee, Faculty Handbook, Chapter II**

The idea of having a new Academic Senate Standing Committee called the Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities Policy Committee (RSCAPC) grew out of a campus-wide Ad-hoc committee assembled during the pandemic. The Ad-hoc committee, named Resuming On-campus Research Activities Group (RORAG), was charged with safely resuming research and creative activities on campus during the pandemic. The group consisted of faculty from ECST, HHS and NSS, EHS staff, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Amy Bippus, and Associate Vice President for Research Jeffrey Underwood. The group created a plan that permitted graduate students, undergraduate students, and faculty to perform research on campus. RORAG also advocated for support to restart research as the campus emerged from the pandemic. It was the impetus behind the Provost's Research Grant fund made available to faculty who needed support to restart their research and creative activities.

RORAG's successful advocacy for on-campus research and creative activities on campus was critical for the continuation of several externally funded research and research training programs. RORAG's success was in part credited to the sole focus on research activities viewed from various angles.

Currently, the Academic Senate has only indirect channels to address the needs of faculty and students engaged in research and creative activities. Due to RORAG's success in partnering faculty, administrators, and staff, there was a call amongst some members of the Senate Executive Committee and faculty to create a new Academic Senate Standing Committee, from here on named the Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities Policy Committee.

The following faculty and administrators contributed to the originally proposed policy: Krishna Foster (NSS), Edith Porter (NSS), Nancy Warter-Perez (ECST), Jeffrey Underwood (Admin), Jamil Momand (NSS), Stefan Kessler (HHS), Arturo Pacheco-Vega (ECST), Sunil Mangalassary (NNS), Welson Kwan (ECST), and Yangyang Liu (NSS). After discussion in Academic Senate on October 25, 2022, as first reading item, the policy was sent back to the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate with the task to revise the document to remove the specific list of committees with which the committee would interact and meeting times during the summer and to add more specific responsibilities. A subgroup in the Executive Committee was formed to address the requested changes and examples for charges from related committees across the CSU were provided to aid in the revision. The resulting heavily-revised policy was then further discussed and edited by the Executive Committee as a whole, presented to the Academic Senate, discussed and approved, and submitted to President Eanes on December 2, 2025.

On February 16, 2026, President Eanes returned the policy unsigned with the comments: "I am returning the above policy unsigned. The new policy on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities (RSCA) Policy Committee has many strengths such as supporting faculty RSCA activities and providing a pathway for creating RSCA related policies. If the Academic Senate revises the membership in lines 55 and 56 to

read “The Associate Vice President for Research and the lead of the Office of Sponsored Programs, or designees, who serve as ex officio, non-voting members”, and the Academic Senate agrees to not ask for additional assigned time for faculty to serve on this committee then I may agree to sign the revised policy.”

In response to the suggested revisions the Executive Committee revised the policy on the Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities Policy Committee accordingly. Specifically,

- Lines 55 – 56: “THE ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY AUXILIARY SERVICES, AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, OR DESIGNEEES, WHO SERVE AS EX OFFICIO, NON-VOTING MEMBERS.” is replaced with “THE ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH AND THE LEAD OF THE OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS, OR DESIGNEEES, WHO SERVE AS EX OFFICIO, NON-VOTING MEMBERS.” as suggested by President Eanes.

In response to the condition of approval being “to not ask for additional assigned time for faculty to serve on this committee”, the Executive Committee does not anticipate an immediate request for additional resources, considering the proposed committee’s monthly meeting schedule and charge. However, the Executive Committee would like to point out that the Executive Committee has an annual review of the resources allocated to shared governance with the Provost, and the Executive Committee would make a request for additional resources in conversation with the Provost through the annual process when warranted in the future. Requiring shared governance to not request resources when needed could hinder organizational effectiveness and innovation.

1 RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES POLICY COMMITTEE (RSCAPC)

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3 **CHARGE.** THE RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES POLICY COMMITTEE (RSCAPC)
4 PROMOTES RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES (RSCA), WHICH ARE NECESSARY TO
5 THE UNIVERSITY'S MISSION TO CULTIVATE AND AMPLIFY OUR STUDENTS' UNIQUE TALENTS, DIVERSE
6 LIFE EXPERIENCES, AND INTELLECT, AND RECOMMENDS POLICY CONCERNING THE UNIVERSITY'S
7 RSCA AGENDA AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF FACULTY AND THE
8 EDUCATION OF OUR STUDENT BODY. RSCAPC SERVES AS A FORUM FOR THE DISCUSSION OF
9 IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION OF RSCA AND ADVOCATES FOR NEEDS AND RESOURCES
10 RELATED TO RSCA AND RSCA ENVIRONMENT. RSCAPC IS BROADLY CHARGED WITH
11 DEVELOPING, REVIEWING, AND RECOMMENDING POLICIES TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE THAT
12 GOVERN AND SUPPORT FACULTY AND STUDENT RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, AND CREATIVE
13 ACTIVITIES, AND THAT FACILITATE SUSTAINED VITALITY OF RSCA AT OUR UNIVERSITY. IN
14 PERFORMING ITS DUTIES, RSCAPC WILL CONSULT WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES, AS
15 APPROPRIATE. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF RSCAPC INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- 16 • DEVELOPING, REVIEWING, AND RECOMMENDING POLICIES THAT GOVERN GRANTS AND
17 CONTRACTS;
- 18 • ESTABLISHING CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR THE APPLICATION, REVIEW,
19 EVALUATION, AND RATING OF INTERNAL COMPETITIVE RSCA RELATED PROPOSALS;
- 20 • PROVIDING ADVICE FOR RSCA-RELATED POLICIES DEVELOPED BY THE FACULTY POLICY
21 COMMITTEE AND STUDENT POLICY COMMITTEE THAT AFFECT FACULTY WORKLOAD OF
22 SUPERVISION COURSES AND STUDENT ENROLLMENT IN THESE;
- 23 • PROVIDING ADVICE AND GUIDANCE FOR OTHER UNIVERSITY UNITS AS NEEDED IN RSCA-
24 RELATED ISSUES;
- 25 • ASSESSING AND PROVIDING ADVICE TO ADMINISTRATION ON ISSUES RELATED TO ON-
26 CAMPUS AND SYSTEM INITIATIVES FOR RSCA, INCLUDING ACADEMIC PLANNING
27 RELATED TO RSCA;
- 28 • RECOMMENDING PRIORITIES TO THE AVP FOR RESEARCH;
- 29 • COMMUNICATING THE INTERESTS OF FACULTY AND STUDENTS WHO ARE ENGAGED IN
30 RSCA TO THE UNIVERSITY AUXILLIARY SERVICES (UAS) BOARD AND UNIVERSITY
31 ADVANCEMENT;
- 32 • COLLABORATING WITH THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, AND CREATIVE
33 ACTIVITIES (ORSCA) TO PROVIDE INFORMATION RELATED TO RSCA AS REQUESTED BY
34 THE PRESIDENT, PROVOST, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE, THE ACADEMIC
35 SENATE, AND OTHER UNIVERSITY-LEVEL COMMITTEES AS NEEDED;
- 36 • PREPARING AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE.

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38 RSCAPC IS REPRESENTED AT THE UAS BOARD TO COMMUNICATE THE INTERESTS OF FACULTY

39 WHO ARE ENGAGED IN RSCA TO THE UAS BOARD.

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42 **MEMBERSHIP.** RSCAPC SHALL BE COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

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45 1. ONE VOTING MEMBER FROM EACH COLLEGE ELECTED FOR STAGGERED THREE-YEAR
46 TERMS ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES APPROVED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE COLLEGE
47 FACULTY. ALTERNATE MEMBERS SHALL ALSO BE ELECTED BY THESE PROCEDURES.

48 FACULTY MEMBERS IN THE LIBRARY AND STUDENT AFFAIRS ARE CONSIDERED THE SAME
49 AS A COLLEGE FOR THIS PURPOSE. NO COLLEGE SHALL HAVE FEWER THAN ONE
50 MEMBER ON THIS COMMITTEE.

51 2. TWO VOTING MEMBERS FROM TWO DIFFERENT COLLEGES APPOINTED BY THE
52 UNIVERSITY NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE FOR STAGGERED THREE-YEAR TERMS.

53 3. ONE VOTING MEMBER FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AS THE
54 LIAISON MEMBER.

55 4. THE ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
56 UNIVERSITY AUXILIARY SERVICES, AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, OR
57 DESIGNEES, WHO SERVE AS EX OFFICIO, NON-VOTING MEMBERS. THE ASSOCIATE VICE
58 PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH AND THE LEAD OF THE OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS, OR
59 DESIGNEES, WHO SERVE AS EX OFFICIO, NON-VOTING MEMBERS. THE ASSOCIATE VICE
60 PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH SERVES AS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.

61 5. TWO VOTING STUDENT MEMBERS TO BE SELECTED ANNUALLY BY THE BOARD OF
62 DIRECTORS OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, INC. ONE STUDENT MUST BE AN
63 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AND THE OTHER MUST BE AN ENROLLED CLASSIFIED
64 GRADUATE OR POST-BACCALAUREATE CREDENTIAL STUDENT. THE CRITERIA FOR
65 STUDENT MEMBERS ARE THE SAME AS THOSE SPECIFIED FOR STUDENT MEMBERS OF
66 THE ACADEMIC SENATE (CONSTITUTION OF THE FACULTY, SECTION 3H, APPENDIX C OF
67 THE FACULTY HANDBOOK).

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69 **OFFICERS AND MEETING SCHEDULES.** RSCAPC SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS AND
70 MEETING SCHEDULES:

71 1. THE OFFICERS OF THIS COMMITTEE ARE THE CHAIR AND THE VICE CHAIR WHO SHALL BE
72 ELECTED ANNUALLY AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE SPRING TERM BY THE MEMBERS OF
73 THE FOLLOWING YEAR'S COMMITTEE.

74 2. A RECORDING SECRETARY FROM ORSCA WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE COMMITTEE.

75 3. RSCAPC MEETS MONTHLY EVERY THIRD FRIDAY FROM 12:30 TO 2:00 PM DURING THE
76 ACADEMIC YEAR IN FALL AND SPRING TERMS.

77 4. THE CHAIR SHALL CALL REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE AND
78 SHALL SET THE AGENDA.

79 5. THE COMMITTEE CHAIR SHALL DETERMINE BY THE THIRD WEEK OF THE SPRING TERM

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THE FACULTY REPLACEMENT NEEDS FOR THE COMMITTEE FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR
AND SHALL NOTIFY THE COLLEGES TO CONDUCT NECESSARY ELECTIONS FOR THE
COMMITTEE.