

Faculty Research Committee Report for 2012-2013
Presented at 11/15/13 Faculty Council Meeting

Members: Wendy Brewster (ObGyn), Bill Carpenter (HPM), Thomas Casey (Poli Sci), Gregory Copenhagen (Biology), Gary Cuddeback (Social Work), Oswaldo Estrada (Romance Languages), Jose Martinez-Garcia (Medicine), Mamaram Seck (African & Afro-American Studies), and Roland Tisch (Microbiology)

Background: (a) The Faculty Committee on Research consists of nine members appointed by the Chancellor; and (b) The committee advises the Chancellor, other officers of administration, and the Faculty Council on matters of University policy and its implementation that have significant impact upon research.

Mission: Our broad mission is to identify problems and suggest solutions to the research mission of the University. We are advisory to Dr. Barbara Entwisle, Vice Chancellor of Research. Prior suggestions over the past several years have included instituting bridge funding for faculty between grants, discussion of in-house sabbaticals to foster interdisciplinary exchange, and mechanisms to formalize in-house grant panels.

Last year, the committee's working agenda was established from meeting to meeting by Dr. Entwisle, and the meetings were focused around providing feedback to Dr. Entwisle on a variety of issues related to research at UNC-CH. This year, the committee has decided to adopt a hybrid strategy where it will focus on agenda items of its own but will still respond to and provide feedback to Dr. Entwisle as pressing issues related to research arise. In this context, the committee has met once to brainstorm about issues it would like to address this academic year. The final product of the committee would be to make a series of recommendations for Dr. Entwisle and UNC-CH to consider.

The committee raised the following, in no particular order:

- Developing programs to provide bridge funding for faculty between grants
- Expanding expand seed money for research
- Working collaboratively across campus regarding resource sharing
- Putting together diverse research groups, incentivizing collaboration across campus, incentivizing networking and the development of groups like CFAR (Center for AIDS Research)
- Growing UNC-CH's portfolio of industrial grants
- Increasing opportunities for junior faculty development
- Enhancing recruitment and retention efforts
- Enhancing UNC-CH internal and external communication about research

The committee will choose one or two of these areas as a focus of its activities the remainder of the academic year.