

Rutgers University Senate

Report of the University Structure and Governance Committee on Charge S-0904: Assessment of Research and Graduate and Professional Education Committee (RGPEC) Standing Charge

Charge: Review the RGPEC standing charge and evaluate whether an undergraduate research component should be added. Respond to Senate Executive Committee by January, 2010.

Background: This charge was initiated by a member of the Executive Committee concerned to clarify that undergraduate research is in fact included in the remit of the Research and Graduate and Professional Education Committee.

Considerations: The RGPEC Standing Charge currently reads:

This Committee shall have primary responsibility for matters directly related to research, graduate and professional education, and the students and faculty affiliated with such programs. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- To provide feedback and input to the Senate on both graduate and professional education, and on research.
- To provide feedback to Rutgers' central administration on University policies and practices that affect graduate and professional students.
- To evaluate and recommend policies concerning both internal funding for research and the conditions under which external research funds are solicited, accepted, and administered.
- To consider intellectual authorship, copyright, trademark, and patent policies of the University.
- To review the broad educational and research policies of the University related to graduate and professional instruction, curricula, and advising.
- To review educational policies related to times, places, and manners of graduate or professional instruction, including distance learning and the use of technology.
- To review and advise Rutgers' president on the termination or suspension of graduate and professional academic programs.
- To address, in conjunction with the Faculty and Personnel Affairs Committee, issues that specifically deal with graduate faculty and research staff.
- To address issues related to workplace climate and working conditions in the University as they concern researchers and graduate and professional students.
- To make recommendations to the Senate concerning advice to the central administration about meetings, forums, and conferences on major issues in educational policy and public service.
- To advise Rutgers' administrative officers and others, through the Senate, on questions relating to actual, possible or alleged discrimination as they may affect the researchers and graduate and professional students and faculty of Rutgers, or Rutgers' responsibility to the public.

[Note: The Senior Vice President for Research and Graduate and Professional Education shall be asked to serve as an ex officio member of this committee.]

After careful consideration, the University Structure and Governance Committee concluded that although this Standing Charge refers specifically to Graduate and Professional Education, it

refers to Research without limitation of any kind, and that this includes research conducted by undergraduates, as also by staff and others. It further concluded that the details of the charge therefore do not need to be amended to add a component for undergraduate research, but that the introduction might usefully be strengthened to clarify this by appending the phrase “and all research programs” to the initial sentence.

Recommendation: The University Structure and Governance Committee recommends adoption of the following resolution by Senate:

Be it resolved that:

1. The initial sentence of the introduction to the Research and Graduate and Professional Education Committee (RGPEC) Standing Charge be amended by replacing the phrase “the students and faculty” with the word “those” and adding the phrase “and all research programs” so that it reads: “This Committee shall have primary responsibility for matters directly related to research, graduate and professional education, and those affiliated with such programs and all research programs.”

University Structure and Governance Committee, 2009-2010

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