

Undergraduate Research Working Group Meeting

<https://www.csuchico.edu/cmse/urwg.shtml>

Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 – Colusa 100B

Organizers: David Hassenzahl (RESP), Kate McCarthy (UG), Sharon Barrios (GRAD), Brandi Aranguren (NSC/RESP)

Attendees:Carolynn Arpin (Chem), JoAna Brooks (CSC2), Daniel Edwards (Chem), Feng He (Kine), Kristen Gorman (Biol), Shelley Hart (Chld), Nate Millard (FYE), Randy Miller (Chem), Lorena Navarro (CSC2/LSAMP), Jason Nice (HIST/Honors), Jaime Raigoza (Csci), Susan Roll (Swrk), Monica So (Chem), Cawa Tran (Biol)

Slides available for 5-14-19 Mtg.

<https://www.csuchico.edu/cmse/assets/documents/urwg-5-14-19-slides.pdf>

Agenda for meeting:

1. Welcome: Vice Provost Daniel Grassian
2. Recap of Activities to Date (Fall 2018 Mtg)
3. RF/RESP Restructure and Support Opportunities
4. Models of Undergraduate Research Programs in the CSU
5. Chico CUR Conference – October 18-20, 2019: Transforming Undergraduate Research Culture and Curricula (TURCC)

Welcome by Vice Provost Grassian

- Daniel noted his support for making undergraduate research a priority on campus
- Acknowledged he was “preaching to the choir” and described his experiences and support for undergraduate research as a high impact practice, fostering curiosity, and enabling students to engage deeper in inquiry

Recap of Activities to Date

- Kate shared CUR’s working definition of undergraduate research
 - o “An inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate student that makes an original intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline” (CUR)
 - JoAna asked about the lack of language about “faculty led”
Kate clarified that while it isn’t in the definition, it is implied through best practices and literature supporting the faculty-student mentoring is the HIP
- Kate shared details from the September 2018 Interest Group Breakfast (5/14/19 slide #4)
 - o Items discussed and to build on include a catalog of UR activities across campus, impacts and benefits to students, some concerns and recommendations
 - Discussion of concerns includes faculty support and potential pay for UR; lack of support through RTP for this work (depends upon the college/department) Dave H. noted there is awareness and interest in unifying this type of work in RTP from the Deans and Provost

- Funding was the main point of concern. Randy Miller noted most significantly concerned with sustained funding for these efforts on campus
- Short-term is moving forward with building a working group and hosting the CUR conference
- Long-term need to investigate opportunities for faculty fellows with potential modest buy-out; investigate support campus wide or centralized through a main office; all requires securing significant funding
- Continued efforts on campus include the Tipping Point Conference in January 2019 and specific sessions and interest in UR
- As of March 2019, Chico State is contracted to host the CUR - TURCC conference in October 2019

Updates on RF/RESP Restructure

- Dave H. initiated a round of introductions and discussion of experiences with UR and research areas of focus for faculty present; there were a number of experienced faculty providing a lot of opportunities, and a few faculty new to the campus and interested in initiating opportunities for their students
- Dave H. updated on the Provost's plan to reorganize the current structure of the Research Foundation (RF) and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (RESP); the plan is to organize both entities into one structure called something like, "Chico State Enterprise" or something similar. The Enterprise will include a structure that will be streamlined to support grant and contract efforts and better support faculty through the grant writing and execution processes. The administrative roles will be redesigned and the positions in charge of RF and RESP will no longer exist, instead a new job description will be written to act as the lead of the Enterprise. This is in design currently and more information will be forthcoming.
- Currently and into the future, Dave H. noted that the agency has the interest in providing faculty additional support and interest in engaging in a larger effort to coordinate support on campus. An example would be to provide additional staffing or oversight when needed to assist with grant writing, or with program support in some capacity. Another example is buy-out of admin staff to support larger efforts as appropriate.

Review of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities across the CSU campuses

- Brandi noted that a review of the CSU Chancellor's website for undergraduate research (link on slide #6) will give self-reported programs and individual colleges or departments doing undergraduate research, however it is often incomplete due to the reporting and required a deep dive into websites to find other opportunities; this search is most productive when there is a centralized office for undergraduate research
- A general overall review of the campuses shows about a 50-50% split between main support efforts for UR in either the campus Offices of Sponsored Programs (OSP - comparable to our RESP), or imbedded in Academic Affairs (AA) by college or department
 - When supported by an OSP, there is often little connection to an actual person or office, rather is more likely a website with assorted links out to research centers or departments; may include applications and contacts for programs

- When supported through AA, it is mostly in very specific Centers or departments rather than a clearing house of information
- There are six examples of centralized offices either directly under AA, or within a Graduate Studies/Research Office; in these instances they have actual offices (physical location), advisors, services more broadly supporting student employment, work stations, etc.

A Vision for Undergraduate Research

- A centralized office of support creates a one-stop access point for students and increases access for students who may not have relationships with faculty or programs that present research opportunities to them in other ways
- An initial catalog of potential support elements is on slide #7.
- The discussion wrapped up with a review and request to think through what support elements others might find essential to student success; this discussion is preliminary to the continued and open planning as we move forward with working group discussions

Next Steps

- To develop a plan to build capacity, support, and recognition for the value of undergraduate research as an effective high-impact practice that benefits our students, faculty, and institution
- Sharon discussed our next steps as preparing to send a team to our hosted TURCC workshop (TURCC – Transforming Undergraduate Research Culture & Curricula Institute)
 - Chico State hosting: October 18-20, 2019
 - TURCC team will be 3-6 members, number to be determined by CUR in August
 - The TURCC workshop description and goals are on slide #9
 - A discussion of team make-up expressed interest in an team that covers traditional research and other scholarship or creative activities; it was noted that CUR suggests faculty, staff and administrators be considered; administrators for the increased success of planning moving forward with campus support; Kate McCarthy was suggested as an administrator to the team.
 - Nine attendees expressed interest in being on TURCC Team

Undergraduate Research Working Group

- Sharon discussed that the TURCC Team is a launching point and the team will get support and input by the Undergraduate Research Working Group (URWG). This URWG will guide the TURCC Team and then take recommendations and action after the TURCC workshop to move the efforts forward through the 2019-20 academic year
- The URWG will organize for 2019-20 and will proceed with regular monthly meetings starting in fall 2019
- The first course of action is to prepare a TURCC Team and do ongoing strategic planning
- All attendees expressed interest in the ongoing working group