

University Research Committee (URC), 2008-2009

Here's a report to the University Coordinating Committee (UCC) from the URC concerning our activities for the 2008-2009 academic year. The URC met one time each quarter.

Regular Issues/Tasks:

1. Assisted Bill Sundstrom (Vice Provost for Faculty Development) with reviewing and awarding of the Course Release for Writing Grant.
2. Reviewed nominations and made recommendations to the Provost for the Sustained Excellence in Scholarship Award and for the Recent Achievement in Scholarship Award.

Other Issues:

1. The main issue the Committee addressed was to think about ways to support faculty research by finding resources for release time. Some ideas were:
 - a. Allow University internal research grants to buy course releases.
 - b. Increase the number of Course Release For Writing grants and broaden the eligibility.
 - c. Use a rotating endowed chair model to provide course releases within a department or cluster of departments.

Committee members met with the Provost and others to discuss the various options above. No recommendations were made.

2. Continued the ongoing discussion about what the role of the URC should be. In recent years activities have included, in addition to the regular tasks, above:
 - a. Weighing in on policy issues (although the procedural mechanism for doing this is unclear).
 - b. Providing feedback to administrators on faculty research related issues (such as input on the Faculty Research website and reviewing Undergraduate Research Initiative grant proposals).
 - c. Sponsoring/co-sponsoring fora and discussions relevant to faculty scholarship concerns.

There was some discussion about what Research Committees at other institutions do. The general consensus of the Committee seemed to be that it should focus its efforts more on general, but effective, policies and procedures that support faculty research, and less on administrative tasks.