

SENATE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FUNDING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

October 2, 2019

12:00-1:00, FAB 3339

MINUTES

Chair: Brad Roth

Present: Christine Chow, Patricia McCormick, Krysta Ryzewski, Jennifer Wareham, Mazen Zamzam

Guests: Monica Brockmeyer, Darryl Gardner

Minutes: Jennifer Wareham

I. Appointment of this session's reporting secretary

Jennifer volunteered to take minutes.

II. Discussion of the status of UROP, with guests Monica Brockmeyer, Senior Associate Provost for Student Success, and Darryl Gardner, Director, Operational Excellence, Student Success'

Brad asked Monica to give us background on UROP and recent changes.

Monica presented a PowerPoint presentation while she discussed the following. She will make the PowerPoint presentation available to the chair of this subcommittee.

Monica summarized the background on recent UROP changes. She indicated concern was raised about the decision to merge UROP with McNair Scholars last Winter. As a consequence of meetings in the Winter regarding this concern, she formally withdrew the plan to partner UROP with McNair Scholars. Monica stated the reason an attempt to partner UROP with McNair was made was because the program was not recruiting a diverse group of participants.

- Patricia asked who the UROP students were
- Monica did not have statistics on the diversity of the program, but she stated the program did not have much racial diversity or diversity across disciplines (i.e., non-STEM).
- Brad requested historical and current statistics on the diversity of UROP. He mentioned there are inadequacies in how diversity is measured. Monica agreed that the data do not capture all forms of diversity.

Monica continued her summary of the background regarding recent changes to UROP. She stated there were concerns that too few stakeholders were involved in the decision-making process for UROP. In response to this concern, she made commitments to work with this Academic Senate subcommittee and undergraduate advising committees, to improve the website and outreach for UROP, and to better align the program with undergraduate research. She stated the review process for changing UROP with these stakeholders began on September 15, 2019.

Monica indicated she will return to the more traditional UROP schedule. The process will be more transparent moving forward.

Patricia asked Monica to clarify what was meant by “undergraduate research.” Monica responded that undergraduate research includes a variety of opportunities for involvement in undergraduate research. She indicated UROP was already collaborating with CLAS in the Rushton Undergraduate Conference to help fund the conference and make it concurrent with the UROP conference.

Patricia asked if Monica was concerned the undergraduate students are not adequately prepared for research. Monica responded affirmatively, stating she would like to strengthen undergraduate research opportunities and experiences. Some students don’t participate in undergraduate research for two main reasons:

- 1) Many students at WSU experience a lack of educational and social capital. They come from different levels of college preparation and experience barriers to understanding how research is important.
- 2) Students may not see themselves in their faculty. Therefore, they do not take advantage of research opportunities.

Krysta expressed concern about placing the onus for research on students and ignoring faculty responsibility. Monica agreed with Krysta.

Monica asked the committee for guidance on ways to generate faculty investment. Monica indicated UROP is not funded, rather it relies on donors. There are limited resources to reward faculty involvement. She stated we need to establish benchmarks for undergraduate research.

Patricia recommended including information about UROP in freshman orientation and library services to promote the program.

Monica stated the program has a rubric for undergraduate research. She would like faculty feedback on the rubric and/or the development of a graduated rubric to measure rank-ordered levels of research (i.e., introductory to advanced).

Brad noted the UROP team does not include social scientists. Monica stated she was open to including such researchers on the UROP team. Darryl stated he noticed this was a gap, and he has already added one social science research person to the team.

Monica encouraged us to attend the next UROP meeting on Thursday at 10 AM in FAB 4339. In this meeting, they will be discussing the framing questions for the revised UROP. Christine said she would try to attend this meeting as a subcommittee representative. Monica will share the minutes of Thursday’s meeting with Brad and our subcommittee.

Mazen asked if there was a plan to review the UROP cycle. Monica stated this year will follow the application and award cycle of previous years. She will review the cycle and make changes to achieve the best outcome for the program. One possibility would be to start the UROP cycle in

Spring/Summer with only one award term but greater guidance and focus on the process to overlap with the student year.

Monica also stated undergraduate advisors have not been a part of the UROP process. The plan is to involve them in the process.

- Patricia recommended Monica include advisors with long-term advising (freshman year to senior year) in mind.

Monica stated the plan is to continue offering UROP in the Winter 2020 semester and generate more attention for the opportunity.

Christine recommended the development of a rubric for faculty advisors/mentors to review research projects. The rubric should articulate the goals of the program to guide faculty mentors. She suggested the UROP team has someone from OTL or education assist with the development of the goals of UROP.

Jennifer suggested adding undergraduate research to the learning outcomes for the Wayne Experience (WE) general education course. This would encourage the promotion of UROP, as well.

Monica asked the committee if we presently have any specific requests from the UROP taskforce.

- Christine reminded Monica that we have not seen any data regarding UROP. We really need data to help guide our questions for the program.
 - o Monica agreed to gather these data and share it with the subcommittee.
- Christine also about the types of disciplines receiving McNair scholarships. What proportion of McNair scholars are in the social sciences and the humanities?
 - o Monica indicated there were McNair scholars in non-STEM disciplines. She agreed to provide us with these data as well.

Brad stated it would be nice to get details about how UROP can impact student's financial aid. Receiving a UROP award may negatively impact financial aid. We might need to meet with Cathy Kay or Dawn medley to get these answers.

- Monica agreed this is an issue that needs further exploration.

Monica and Darryl left the meeting at 12:55 PM.

III. Approval of the minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting was made and seconded. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

IV. Discussion

The subcommittee discussed Monica and Darryl's presentation and comments. The general opinion was that the effort to include stakeholders from Academic Senate, Student Senate, and

others seems promising for the improvement of UROP. Monica seemed open to feedback from this subcommittee. This subcommittee was pleased to hear McNair Scholars have been separated from UROP.

Meeting adjourned at 1:11 PM.