

Minutes of UROP meeting of November 13, 2019

(Drafted by Christine Chow; Edited by Brad Roth)

Present: Brad Roth, Chair; Poonam Arya, Christine Chow, Patricia McCormick, Krysta Ryzewski, Mazen Zamzam.

The Provost's office's UROP Action Team has been put on hold. Brad's understanding from meeting with Monica is that Monica wishes for our committee to generate a report with a wish list and then disband.

For this last round of applications and awards, there were 114 applications and 60 awards. It seems that Monica prefers a once per year process to reduce drain on her staff.

Brad emphasized the importance of funding for Spring/Summer research and, in particular, research travel experiences. Monica was not sure what money would be available for a Spring/Summer competition. There has been no date established for announcement of an upcoming competition.

What is our role? Develop a report. Matters discussed:

- What is the role of the development office? Is there a danger that the financial aid office will withdraw scholarship money from research grant recipients?
- We would like statistics for the previous 5 years: a) number of applicants, b) awardees, and c) demographics
- We would like to know more about the evaluation process (the previous review process is unclear).

When should we meet next? We will request a meeting with Matt Orr for Dec 4. In the mean time:

- Generate a data wish list
- Formulate ideas for the report

For the future:

- Discuss how to formalize the process and give the program more credibility.
- How is diversity defined?
- Need for a faculty review oversight committee, with blind review and three reviewers per proposal, and a meeting of the faculty committee to discuss the rankings and ensure diversity.
- Have advisors administer funding?
- A process is needed for ensuring that the students' reports are submitted and that the research was good. A possible role of oversight committee