2012-2013 Report of the Faculty Senate Committee on Research, Scholarship,

Creative Activities and Engagement

The Faculty Senate Committee on Research, Scholarship, Creative Activities and Engagement met on two occasions during the 2012-2013 academic year. Our first meeting was held on September 20, 2012. During the preceding academic year, the Committee had discussed and decided to administer a survey to members of the faculty regarding issues of research, scholarship, creative activities and engagement. At this initial meeting of the Committee for the fall semester, we discussed the process of administering the questionnaire to the FIU faculty and voted unanimously for this to be done. We also scheduled a meeting with Vice President for Research, Andres Gil. Finally, a general discussion ensued regarding the criteria which senior administrators (Deans and the Provost among others) utilize in determining the importance of specific journals in the tenure and promotion review process

Our second meeting was held on November 9, 2012. During the first part of the meeting, Andres Gil provided us with an overview of the priorities of his division for the academic year. We also discussed with him other topics such as faculty conflict of interest and the varied research activity among FIU’s different schools and colleges. Afterward, we discussed the Committee’s questionnaire on research, scholarship, creative activity and engagement which had recently been sent to the FIU faculty. The Committee also met with, and provided guidance to, the three public administration doctoral students who would be responsible for the compiling of and carrying out of the basic analysis of the data acquired through the survey. The students involved were Rachel Emas, Jeisson Rodriguez and Gretha Burchard.

Further discussion among committee members and the students focused upon data compilation and on the various technical issues involved in trying to compile data from open ended questions and the need to ensure consistent categorization of individual responses. The Committee members and the students who would be carrying out the data compilation and analysis then discussed the various categories which might be used in attempting to summarize the faculty responses to the questionnaire.

During the course of the spring semester, the process of compiling and analyzing the data acquired through the administration of the questionnaire was carried out. Due to the fact that the data compilation and analysis was done by student volunteers, the draft report on the questionnaire is only now being distributed. Thus, while it is attached here, it has not been reviewed by Committee members and should therefore be considered as a first draft rather than as a final product. Finalizing the draft report should be one of the first tasks undertaken by the Committee at its first fall meeting.

In addition, at the first meeting of the Committee this fall, an issue raised by Orlando Garcia regarding complaints that he has received from various of his colleagues regarding the Internal Grants that DOR has set up should be discussed. These are small grants, but members of the faculty who have applied for them do not receive responses regarding their status in a timely manner. Andres Gil will again be invited to the meeting in order to provide some clarification on this matter.