

2019-2020 Faculty Research Committee Final Report

Dear Ferris State University Academic Senate,

This academic year, the committee consisted of eleven faculty members from throughout the university:

Gordon J. Reynolds, Cecil R. Queen, Matt S. Moresi, Jonathan J. Taylor, David P. Burns, Evan R. Watts, Michael Klepser, Alison M. Konieczny, Anne R. Hawkins (Ex-Officio), Thomas C. Dowling (Ex-Officio) with myself, David Petillo, as acting chair.

A total of two meetings were held, with relatively good attendance. Our initial, introductory meeting was held on November 5th, 2019 (minutes attached) for the purpose of reviewing last year's results, chair election, and discussion of our current year's objectives, along with current policy concerns and rubric scoring amendments. We decided to collect grant proposal applications for one semester cycle, Spring 2020, to be collected by February 7th for the purpose of individual committee member review and rubric scoring. The final determination of grant award status was conducted at our second meeting on February 18th (minutes attached). This final report will summarize the major activities and accomplishments of the Senate Faculty Research Committee (SFRC).

- For Spring 2020, there were a total of five grant proposal submissions, each of which were determined to be of above-average quality (85%-92%) as determined by rubric, and therefore meriting award status:
 - 1) **Avesh Raghunandan** in the amount of \$ 4,930.00 for his project "Spatial Properties of targets that determine the recruitment of 1st or 2nd order binocular contrast summation mechanisms in normal human visual systems"
 - 2) **Anne M. Spain** in the amount of \$ 5,000.00 for her project "Microbial Diversity of a Central Michigan Bog"
 - 3) **Benjamin Pontefract** in the amount of \$ 3,556.20 for his project "Reducing Inappropriate Antibiotic Prescribing in a Dental Clinic Using the Collaboration to Harmonize Antimicrobial Registry Measures (CHARM) Project and Educational Interventions"
 - 4) **Eric Nybo** in the amount of \$ 5,000.00 for his project "Genetic Engineering of Novel Elloramycins"
 - 5) **Sonali Kurup** in the amount of \$ 5,000.00 for her project "Dual EGFR/AURK inhibitors for Resistant Lung Cancer"
- The reduction of last year's maximum grant awards from \$ 7,500.00 to \$ 5,000.00 had enabled the committee to award all five faculty 100% of their requested funds for a total of \$ 23,462.20. This enabled the committee to maximize funding usage while remaining within our current, yearly budget of \$ 30,000.00. It was also noted that the number of grant proposals submitted (5) were significantly fewer (by 55%) than the 11 proposals submitted the previous year, and that perhaps college representation was not adequately met or sufficiently encouraged by lowering grant awards.

Other relevant notes:

- Although the principle objectives of Ferris State faculty grant proposal review, scoring, and award notification by the SFRG committee was satisfactorily concluded before the current covid-19 restrictions

became active, one grant awardee from the previous year, Namita Giri, had requested and received departmental permission (letter attached), to postpone her current work. The SFRG committee understands the need for developing alternative scenarios for the training of students and their project involvement, all of which will require time, planning, and significant preparations during current covid-19 restrictions. Under such current circumstances, it would be reasonable to expect similar requests for project postponement by past and current faculty grant awardees in the near future.

- The Student Research Fellowships (SRF) Summer 2020 program was cancelled for the same reasons as mentioned previously (letter referring to UWN on 3/19, attached). Many SFRG committee members, myself included, typically also serve on this review board.

The committee also wishes to acknowledge the wisdom of Ferris State University for supporting modern research endeavors for the purpose of attracting and encouraging talented faculty and students in this current climate of decreasing student body enrollment and closure of less profitable programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David Petillo, PhD, MT(ASCP)MB^{CM}
Ferris State University
Chair, Senate Faculty Research Committee
Program and Clinical Coordinator\Assistant Professor
College of Health Professions, Molecular Diagnostics Program
Applied Technology Center
151 Fountain Street NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Telephone: [\(616\)-643-5718](tel:616-643-5718)

**Ferris State University, Senate Faculty Research Grant (SFRG) Committee Fall 2019 Meeting # 1 Minutes,
November 5, 2019, 2:00 pm-3:00 pm, ASC Rm # 2082**

Committee Members

David Petillo (Chair, College of Health Professions, Molecular Diagnostics)
 Gordon J. Reynolds (College of Arts and Sciences, English, Literature, and World Languages)
 Cecil R Queen, (College of Education and Human Services, Criminal Justice)
 Matt S. Moresi (College of Arts and Sciences, Music)
 Jonathan J. Taylor (College of Arts and Sciences, English, Literature, and World Languages)
 David P. Burns (College of Arts and Sciences, Mathematics)

Anne R. Hawkins (Laboratory Safety, Ex-Officio)
 Alison M. Konieczny (College of Health Professions, Library)

Teleconference:

Michael Klepser (College of Pharmacy, Pharmacy Practice)

Time	Topic	Discussion Summary\Added Post-meeting Notes
2:00 pm	- Welcome and round robin introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 in physical attendance, 1 via teleconference. We have two additional members, Thomas C. Dowling (College of Pharmacy, Director- Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Ex-Officio) and Evan R. Watts (Humanities, Communication) for a total of 11 committee members for AY 2019/2020.
2:05 am	- Review of previous AY 2018/2019 Senate Final Report (hardcopies made available)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted 2 grant proposal cycles last year, with last (e-mail) vote results for 1 cycle this year (AY 2019/2020) Noted reduction of individual awards from \$ 7,500 to \$ 5,000, mainly due to return of unused funds by grant awardees. Noted Academic Senate request for increased 25% budget in response to increased (25 %) numbers of grant proposal submissions and greater # of awardable grant proposals that were unfunded- noted no further increase. Our SFRG budget remains approx. \$ 30,000 (to fund a maximum total of 6 awards for AY 2019/2020).
2:15 pm	- Vote for SFRG Committee Chair for AY 2019/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Petillo (DP) volunteers continuing services as Chair for second year. This is (DP's) 3rd year and will cede Chair services next year, noting that another SFRG member will “train” for the next year (AY 2020/2021), in response to Michael Klepser's (MK) comment. Vote taken, (DP) unanimously approved as SFRG Committee Chair.

2:20 am	<p>- Review of current SFRG policy and associated documents (hardcopies made available)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted Anne R. Hawkins as initial key contact for safety approval for IRB, IACUC, or radiation usage in intended grant proposal (page 6, unnumbered). • Discussed grant proposal deadlines (Feb 7, 2020) with review and notification of award/non-award by March 2020 (Faculty Research Grant Program Announcement, front cover, page 1, unnumbered) • Noted recurring concerns, especially for sole grant budget requests, for computer hardware, software, and data storage should include an initial consultation with Ferris State IT\TAC services. • Noted recurring concerns, especially for sole grant budget requests, for non-research related travel funding, despite university-sponsored opportunities for departmental or TIMME travel funds. Noted Alison Konieczny (AK) concerns with travel budget for purpose of dissemination as part of research intention. • Noted comment by MK that an additional (non-essential) scoring rubric criterion be added to emphasize the SFRG committee's intention to encourage first-time grant proposal submitters, without the intention of penalizing senior faculty. Noted David Burns intention to also support senior faculty. • (DP) proposes the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. (DP) will provide a current, editable SFRG policy and rubric scoring document to (MK). 2. MK will draft added "I" rubric criterion (last page) with 0, 1, and 2 scoring descriptions. 3. SFRG committee will review and vote on it's incorporation into our existing rubric. • DP will provide updated SFRG policy/rubric to Academic Senate to post in SFRG BlackBoard course shell. • DP will also notify UWA (University Wide Announcements) for Ferris faculty grant proposal invitation by Friday, November 15th (providing a weblink to our current SFRG policy). • Follow up (post-meeting) request by (AH) to add page #'s to our current policy documents for more specific, future reference.
3:00 pm	Meeting adjourned	

**Ferris State University, Senate Faculty Research Grant (SFRG) Committee Spring 2020 Meeting # 2 Minutes,
February 18, 2019, 2:00 pm-3:00 pm, ASC Rm # 2062**

Committee Members

David Petillo (Chair, College of Health Professions, Molecular Diagnostics)

David P. Burns (College of Arts and Sciences, Mathematics)

Jonathan J. Taylor (College of Arts and Sciences, English, Literature, and World Languages)

Teleconference:

Thomas C. Dowling (College of Pharmacy, Director, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs)

Matt S. Moresi (College of Arts and Sciences, Humanities, Music)

Evan R. Watts (College of Arts and Sciences, Humanities, Communication)

Michael Klepser (College of Pharmacy, Pharmacy Practice)

Alison M. Konieczny (College of Health Professions, Library)

Gordon J. Reynolds (College of Arts and Sciences, English, Literature, and World Languages)

Cecil R Queen, (College of Education and Human Services, Criminal Justice)

Anne R. Hawkins (Laboratory Safety, Ex-Officio)

Time	Topic	Discussion Summary\Added Post-meeting Notes
2:00 pm	- Welcome and round robin introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 in physical attendance, 5 via teleconference. Noted- relocation of meeting room (ASC # 3101), to room # 2062 facilitated by David Burns. Teleconference facilitated by Jonathan Taylor (conference call set up via laptop).
2:05 am	- Overview of Ferris faculty grant proposals (5) as submitted this single-proposal cycle for AY 2019/2020 by February 7 th , 2020 (4:00 pm), review of essential and additional relative criteria, range and and avg scores % as assessment of quality required for award status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted grant total funds requested for all 5 proposal submissions (\$ 23,486.20) do not exceed current SFRG committee annual budget (\$ 30,000). Attached tallied essential and additional relative criteria rubric scores (excel spreadsheet) by 8 SFRG members, with comments by non-voting members. Noted- two committee members recused themselves from select reviews with a potential conflict of interest. Essential criteria of all 5 proposals- majority vote in approval for all 5 proposals. Additional relative criteria of all 5 proposals (avg rubric scores range from 15.29- 16.57 (of 18 maximum), representing approximately 85% - 92% (n = 7). (Refer to excel spreadsheet summary). Committee consensus: above-average quality for each and all 5 Ferris faculty grant proposals, therefore meriting award status.
2:20 pm	- Official Voting (based on SFRG committee consensus of essential and relative criteria for grant proposals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SFRG committee unanimously agrees to recommend award status for each of our 5 current (AY 2019/2020) Ferris faculty grant submitters.
2:30 pm	Other concerns\comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anne Hawkins requested (via separate e-mail and discussed here) that proposals by 2 grant submitters (Kurup and Nybo) should indicate if the College of Pharmaceutical

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safety and bio\hazardous waste removal budget cost notes - Transfer of SFRG Blackboard course shell to Canvas (before Bb expires June 21st , 2020). - Next steps 	<p>Sciences will absorb costs associated with bio\hazardous waste generation. Indicates that this information should be appropriately noted in their proposed grant budgets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Dowling confirms that the College of Pharmacy will absorb those associated costs, and agrees to request additional notes on submitters' budgets. (DP) will facilitate by referring Kurup and Nybo to Ann Hawkins for clarification and further steps. • Ferris IT-Service reply note (Feb 25th , 2020)- our SFRG Bb course shell (20353) has been transferred over to Canvas (everyone should see a Pending invite when they log into Canvas next). • (DP) will notify all 5 grant proposal awardees in March and will e-mail the Academic Senate our SFRG committee year-end report in April or early May 2020.
2:45 pm	Meeting adjourned	

May 9, 2020

To the faculty Research Committee

Subject: Request for extension of FRG (awarded in 2018-2019)

Dear Faculty Research committee,

I am writing you to request a full year extension for the FRG deadline (current deadline is July 31, 2020). Due to some unavoidable circumstances in the past the proposed timeline (Dec 2019) could not be followed. I have then resolved the issues and finally started to work on the project with 2 students starting in Spring 2020. The students have started working on part of the proposal and were not able to continue after the spring break due to the pandemic outbreak. Given the current scenario and the uncertainty revolving around, it does not seem feasible to have students working on the project in near future, and hence I will not be able to complete the project as per the current deadline. I am providing an update reporting a little progress we have made during early weeks of the spring semester

Most recent Update

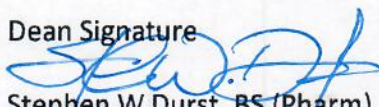
Two students were working on the part of proposal and they were able to develop an HPLC method for quantification of the candidate drugs. I have secured the candidate drugs and as the project was funded to train the students or provide an opportunity to students with bench work research, I have to wait till I can have students working in my lab.

Based on the reasons listed above, I kindly request the faculty research committee to extend the deadline for a one full year.

Regards


Namita Giri, PhD
Assistant Professor
College of pharmacy
Ferris State University
Big Rapids Michigan
231 591 2238

Dean Signature


Stephen W Durst, BS (Pharm), PharmD
Dean and Professor
College of Pharmacy
Ferris State University
220 Ferris Drive, Big Rapids, MI, 49307
(O): 231 591 2254

From: [Thomas C Dowling](#)
To: [Karen M Barkel](#); [Wendy S Stapp](#)
Cc: [Tracey D Ward](#); [David Petillo](#)
Subject: SRF 2020 cancelled
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 11:05:28 AM

Colleagues:

I just spoke with Provost Blake, and it is confirmed that the SRF summer 2020 program will be **cancelled**.

It is simply not acceptable to assume that students will be allowed on campus to complete research with a faculty member.

This notice will be sent out via UWN today.

Thanks for your support,

Tom

Thomas C. Dowling, PharmD, PhD, FCCP
Professor and Assistant Dean, College of Pharmacy
Director, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs
Ferris State University
(Office): 616.643.1139
(Mobile): 616.430.6614

From: Karen M Barkel <KarenBarkel@ferris.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 4:32 PM
To: Wendy S Stapp <WendyStapp@ferris.edu>
Cc: Thomas C Dowling <ThomasDowling@ferris.edu>; Tracey D Ward <TraceyWard@ferris.edu>; David Petillo <DavidPetillo@ferris.edu>
Subject: Re: SRF Review

Hi folks - Our situation is very different now that we are moving all face to face classes online. I do not think I will be able to get reviews in to you by next week.

Can you push it back a week?

Thanks, Karen

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 17, 2020, at 2:07 PM, Wendy S Stapp <WendyStapp@ferris.edu> wrote:

Hello,

Thank you for donating your time to review this year's SRF applications. Here is the link to the applications and scoring spreadsheet. A tentative date of March 25 is on my calendar to bluejeans conference and choose which ones will be funded.

Please let me know if the 25th fits in your schedule as we can always pick a different date. We would like to notify the mentor's and students by April 3, 2020. Contact me if you have any questions.

<https://ferrisstateuniversity.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/2020StudentResearchFellowshipSRFApplications/EqJqDP9uXNVNm8FlbcjPuEABl1DvCSweCy3reYcZ6PKITA?e=sWaE8z>

SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL? PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR APPLICATION MATERIALS TO ORSP AT LEAST 5 BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO THE SPONSOR DEADLINE.

Wendy Stapp, Grants Administrator
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