Development of an Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities Office at Allegheny College

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Major Goals and Accomplishments

- Since attending the CUR-Great Lakes College Association (GLCA) workshops, our major accomplishments have been to formalize an Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities (URSCA) office and set up an URSCA advisory committee that meets twice each semester to focus on campus-wide URSCA initiatives.

- The first major URSCA committee initiative was to start the process of expanding the tenure and promotion guideline language on scholarship to include faculty participation in undergraduate research and other activities.

  - Faculty Council is currently gathering information from departments to determine their views and participation in these activities.

  - Goal is to have campus-wide discussions draft new tenure and promotion handbook language, and vote on this new language during the 2014/2015 academic year.

  - We anticipate this initiative will be difficult and challenging as it represents a major shift in the way we define faculty scholarship.

  - We seek guidance from other institutions that have successfully navigated this issue.

- The second major URSCA committee initiative is to create a physical space for the URSCA office.

  - Director of URSCA is working with Associate Provost to design space in Library.

  - The Library will be renovated to include the new "Gateway" that will contain many of the student support offices, including the URSCA office.

- The third major URSCA goal is to better connect S-STEM NSF scholar students and other URM students with faculty research projects.

  - URSCA director and NSF PIs will develop mechanisms to match URM students with faculty research projects.

Table 1: Summary of Goals, Strategies, and Progress

Desired Goals	Strategies	Who is Responsible	Progress to Date
Change name of Office of Undergraduate Research to Office of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities (URSCA)	Meet with provost and faculty groups	Director of URSCA	This has been accomplished - changes have been made to web pages and brochures
Formalize URSCA advisory committee	Meet with provost and faculty groups (CUR-STEM, Mellon-Humanities)	Director of URSCA	This has been accomplished - the committee meets twice each semester
Examine tenure and promotion handbook language	URSCA advisory committee and Mellon arts and humanities steering committee facilitated discussions with the Faculty Council	Faculty Council and Allegheny College faculty	Faculty Council is collecting departmental survey data
Create physical space for URSCA office	Meet with associate provost and Gateway staff	Director of URSCA	Physical space will be created during 2014/2015 academic year
Connect NSF Scholars and other URMs with faculty research projects	Discussions between URSCA director, NSF grant PIs, and STEM faculty	NSF grant PIs, Director of URSCA	Work in progress
Increase / maintain funding for student research and faculty stipends	URSCA advisory committee	Provost Office, Development Office	Work in progress, part of strategic plan

Current Initiatives: we welcome suggestions or advice

- Examine of our summer undergraduate research program to determine ways to enrich the students' summer research experience

- Determine most effective strategies to track student participation in research both on- and off-campus

- Change the tenure and promotion language to broaden the definition of faculty scholarship

- Connect URM students with faculty research projects in their first or second year