

Graeme Harper

What is your leadership experience in CUR and outside of CUR?

Serving in my third term as a CUR councilor, I am Chair-Elect of the CUR At-Large Division. While a Councilor I have led the Quality Assurance in UR Group, and created with colleagues a quality in UR survey released in 2015, 2017 and 2018. More recently, at At-large we have been investigating Modes and Methods of Remote UGR to create a report and indicative best practices map. Since 2011 I have been Dean of The Honors College at Oakland University, leading its growth and development from a 400 student unit to a 2100 student unit. I am current Director of the university's Mid-West Center for Undergraduate Research, and direct semester workshops, seminars and symposia associated with that UR research center.

As Director of the National Society for Minorities in Honors (NSFMiH), I direct an annual conference and publishing program for faculty, staff and students, including that focused on diversity, equity and inclusion in honors education www.nsfmih.org. Having won a National Book Council Award when first beginning writing, I am today the Chair of the Creative Writing Studies Organization (CWSO), where I have led the creation of the first national research statement in that field, and chair research activities, including a national/international webinar series and R&D initiatives. I was previously founding Vice President for Research. And I was a member of the first Association of Writing and Writing Program's (AWP) National Research Taskforce. I am currently an invited research assessor for organizations in the USA, Europe and Australasia, including the Hong Kong Research Council, the Wellcome Trust (medical), Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA), to add to previous research assessment roles with the EU Commission, the Economic and Social Research Council and the Joint Information Systems Committee (technology). I am founding Editor-in-Chief, or Co-Editor, of four international peer reviewed journals rated in the highest quartile.

Previously, as an Associate Dean (Research) of a college, I created that college's first Research Ethics committee, and chaired it. I established the assessing of research outcomes and strategies for each unit in the college, including developing research artefact analyses and leading unit-specific strategy discussions. Three times a Chair/Foundation Chair of Department, I have led the establishment, staffing, resourcing of new academic units, from those with 2 f/t staff and no f/t faculty to those with over a dozen f/t staff and four times as many f/t faculty. I was previously a member of the European Commission's DGX Research group Panel of Experts where I joined five other representatives from across Europe in creating research support strategies. From 2003-2015 I was a Senior Strategic Reviewer at the Arts and Humanities Research Council, from 2006-2010 the Director of the National Institute for Excellence in the Creative Industries, and from 2008-2011 a selected national member of the Research and Business Committees of the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC), assessing technology funding for 18,000 technology users.

Why are you interested in serving on the NVC and how does your past experience with CUR and or other organizations support your role on NVC?

I believe undergraduate research is the future of research development in universities, and that it is a substantial contributor to student success. I also believe we are at a key moment in the national history of undergraduate research and have an opportunity to become the world leaders in the development of, and support of, undergraduate research. Post-COVID 19 this opportunity is even more possible.

Serving on NVC would allow me to serve more effectively as a CUR member in support of those goals and aspirations. I have been a member of research organizations in the UK, Australia, continental Europe, and currently assess research for organizations in these areas and in Hong Kong. An American citizen, I am committed to seeing how we can advance UGR as part of a leadership strategy that is both national and global.

I chaired the Quality Assurance in Undergraduate Research group, based in the At Large Division, In 2020-2021 we at At-Large have been working on a project (which I have led) to discover and map Modes and Methods of Undergraduate Research (including assessment) in remote circumstances (to consider what we have learnt about remote UGR during the COVID-10 pandemic)

In 2015, I and colleagues established and I currently Chair the National Society for Minorities in Honors (NSFMIH) to advance diversity in honors education, and specifically present on diversity in UR, as I did at the NSFMIH annual conference at the Cal State University Fullerton in October 2019 and again virtually (via Zoom) in October 2020. I have edited the books Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Honors Education (2018); and Honors Education and the Foundation of Fairness: A Question of Equity (2021).

Since 2012 I have been chairing a UGR Center, to promote the work of CUR on campus at Oakland University and to encourage collaboration across campus and beyond campus. I set up the annual Inspiration Awards to reward faculty for collaboration with undergraduate researchers.

I introduced the "research focus" class category into course proposals pitched to The Honors College. We thus ask for details of the research component and how that relates to the aims and objectives and outcomes of any class. Working with colleague Dr. Susan Beckwith, we have recently launched a university-wide annual celebration of UGR in the Curriculum, entitled I.C.E (Innovation, Creation and Exploration). Together with Dr. Beckwith (our Honors College Faculty fellow, and also CUR At-Large member) we are advancing the I.C.E. Festival of Undergraduate Research as a model for integrating UGR into the curriculum of all majors.

Though an American citizen, I was nevertheless on the Steering Committee of the British Council on Undergraduate Research (BCUR) not long after its foundation. Regularly, I also run international collaboration video seminars with UR students/faculty across the world. In 2021 I have edited the book Honors Education Around the World (2021), which looks at such things as research and project-based learning with honors students "in China, Poland, Australia, England, USA, Russia and Belgium.

How will you represent and advance CUR-wide interests (please reference the CUR Mission and Strategic Plan)?

As Chair-Elect of the At-Large Division, I work CUR-wide, and bring that CUR-wide experience to bear on this NVC role. As Dean of an Honors College, my UGR students are in all majors and in every interest group “ and this involves collaboration and community-building across campus and beyond campus in the widest and deepest sense (creating and sustaining these relationships).

Over 2000 students are trained in my direct charge, each year, and from this group 200 complete senior UR projects every year in every discipline imaginable. This involves advocating and creating partnerships with mentors in the university, the community and industry.

As national Director of the National Society for Minorities in Honors (NSFMIH) I represent and advance diversity, equity and inclusion. Over 500 people have attended NSFMIH conferences since launched in 2015 “ including faculty, students, and staff across the entire range of diverse populations in the US.

As Co-Chair of our university Reimaginingcommittee producing sustainability plan have been fully embedded in sustainability which now has produced a university-wide Sustainability Plan, supported by the President and Cabinet. This, and my role as Dean, and indeed Co-Chair of this and other professional committees is fundamentally about accountability to mission, vision and values. As a long term and frequent founder and director of Undergraduate Research Centers and programs I am a skilled representative and leader of advances in undergraduate research, not least in terms of advocacy and in partnerships with others, but also in terms of the value and values of UGR (mentorship, collaboration, exploration, and more).

Our mission at the Council on Undergraduate Research is to support and promote high-quality mentored undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry, and that indeed is what I have done and do, in all my professional roles.

I will that experience to bear in this NVC role. I believe support of undergraduate research is the future of high education, student experience, and student success, and therefore my ability to represent CUR-wide interests, informed by our mission and strategic goal areas, will be integral to my reviewing nominations, contribution to approving candidates, and service to CUR members in developing a slate of candidates for each open officer position, including for Council and General Representative positions on the Executive Board.