

Report Out from the UARC
Jeffrey Ashley, Chair of the UARC
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During the October 23, 2014 meeting of the UARC, attending members discussed the previously conceived idea of the creation of 3 Research Advocate positions in each of the 3 Colleges (CABE, CDEC, CSHLA), akin to existing advocate positions (e.g., Advising, Assessment, and Nexus Learning). Members generally supported the creation of these positions, and discussed the potential job descriptors for advocate positions. A 4-page document outlining the rationale and responsibilities (and including both short and long term goals) of these positions was distributed to UARC members. A copy of that brief will be posted.

For many of us, engaging in scholarly, meaningful “research” (broadly defined to be inclusive of all that we, as faculty, may do scholarship wise, across all Colleges) is an important component of our academic lives here but may also serve as an important vector to enhance our students learning and engagement. With that dichotomy in mind, the ‘role’ of these positions have been defined as follows:

As presently conceived, the overall goal/role of each College Research Advocate would be to facilitate and nurture faculty members in the process of building and sustaining research trajectories that support their professional development while creating and enhancing meaningful learning opportunities for student engagement in research.

After the October UARC meeting, the Chair of the UARC recommended, through a brief proposal to the Provost, that the University pilot Research Advocates positions, one for each of the three Colleges, in the spring of AY 2014-15. The scope of work and the effort for these advocate positions would be fleshed out during the spring of 2015 and recommended to the Provost, the Deans, and the UARC Chair/members. For the pilot period, three modest stipends (in lieu of course releases) for the spring semester were asked for and granted. Executive Deans would solicit Research Advocates from among their faculty and notify the Chair of the UARC (Jeffrey Ashley) of their selection. The advocates as a group would be a subcommittee of UARC, but are not required to be members of the UARC.

The Provost’s Office is seeking recommendations for this one-semester appointment from the Executive Deans. Faculty should express their interest to the Deans, who will inform the Provost’s Office in early January.

Core Charge:

- Flesh out advocate role and duties; term; and criteria for ongoing evaluation; consult with faculty to gauge their needs in relation to ‘research/scholarship’.
- Advise on annual Faculty Research/Scholarship grants review process (part of the existing UARC charges)

Other timely assignments:

- Define the purposes of different University funding sources
- Consider the value of more formal research releases and the process for soliciting and granting them

Deliverable:

- a short proposal to Provost’s Office by late April, 2015. The Provost’s Office will bring a recommendation to UARC in May.

Service/Compensation:

- For the one-semester appointment in AY 2014-15, advocates will receive a one-time \$2,000 stipend.
- The ongoing compensation (release or stipend) will depend upon what is recommended in terms of roles, duties, and associated effort.