

Senate Advisory Committee on Academic Policy (SACAP)
Update for Academic Senate Executive Committee
Monday March 15, 2021

Policy Issues – 2020-21 Academic Year

Library Subscriptions for Scholarly Publications

This issue continued into the 2020-2021 academic year with Harriet Hopf and Richard Preiss providing an update on the status of the task force formed, at the request of Dan Reed, SVP, to address issues around Library subscriptions for scholarly publications.

- As part of the discussion the committee provided some ideas on potential additional funding streams to support library acquisitions. The task force planned to reach out to students, staff and faculty through town hall meetings to learn more about the issue and develop recommendations on next steps.
- SACAP members were to be updated when the task force has completed its work and VPAA Reed has a report.

Thesis Office Process and Deadlines

This issue was also a continuation of previous SACAP Committee work. Committee member Julie Barkmeier-Kraemer provided the committee with a summary of the issue as introduced last year. Concerns were raised regarding the scope of work of thesis editors and the timeframes for manuscript submissions and approvals. Last year's committee received a small portion of the data requested from the Thesis Office and it was decided that the committee should continue pursuing the issue.

- A four person sub-committee (Julie Barkmeier-Kraemer, Joy Pierce, Devon Cantwell, Mary Beth Vogel-Ferguson) was formed to further explore the issue.
- The sub-committee met and created an action plan which was subsequently approved by the SACAP Committee.

Step 1: Send an email to Dean Kieda and the Thesis Office requesting specific data to help the committee better understand the work of the Thesis Office.

Action: This email was created, vetted through the SACAP committee and sent.

Follow-up: Dean Kieda and Thesis Office staff provided updated information and feedback on changes that had been made in the time since the previous meeting. Much of the changes were COVID-19 related.

Step 2: Create a survey of graduate program administrators and students relative to thesis document submission requirements and personal experiences.

Action: The survey was created by the sub-committee and a draft sent to full SACAP Committee as well as Dean Kieda for review and further input.

Follow-up: Dean Kieda and Thesis Office staff met with the sub-committee to discuss additions to the survey that the Dean and staff believe would help inform the work of the Thesis Office. The sub-committee was appreciative of the opportunity to work collaboratively in this effort.

The survey is in the process of being reviewed by the full SACAP Committee and will be finalized at the March 18th SACAP meeting (to which Dean Kieda and staff are invited). The surveys will then be sent to all appropriate graduate advisors and graduate students by the end of March to ensure adequate time to receive results prior to the end of the semester.

SACAP Members for 2020 - 2021

Mohammad Mirfakhrai	Libraries
Julie Barkmeier-Kraemer	Medicine
Robin Craig	Law
Sushma Saraf	Science
Anna Foulks	ASUU
Devon Cantwell	Social and Behavioral Science
Inas Sheikh	ASUU
Kent Udell	Engineering
Joy Pierce	Humanities
Melissa Bernstein	Libraries
Allyson Mower	Libraries
Mary Beth Vogel-Ferguson	Social Work
Randy Dryer (ex-officio)	Law

- Purpose of SACAP: The Senate Advisory Committee on Academic Policy (SACAP) considers any matter relating to academic policy broadly defined, including matters relating to academic activities to teaching and research, the University libraries (formerly a function of the Senate Advisory Committee on Libraries), and salaries and benefits of faculty and other academic personnel (formerly a function of the Senate Advisory Committee on Salaries and Benefits). It may consider any relevant matter which may be suggested by members of the Committee, members of the faculty, administrative officers, or students. The Senate Executive Committee, or the Senate, may refer to this committee any question or consideration of any proposal regarding academic policy which is not otherwise assigned to another committee of the Senate, or which may benefit from study by this committee as well as another committee. Upon its selection of a subject for study, the Committee shall notify all interested agencies within the University, including standing committees, and invite their cooperation. For matters related to the University Libraries, consultation shall include the Libraries administrators, and for matters related to academic personnel salaries and benefits consultation shall include human resources administrators. At least once each academic year, the Committee shall submit a written report of its studies and recommendations, if any, to the Senate.
- Governing Document: <https://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-002.php>