

Brief report

Monthly meeting: Standing Committee of Research and Creative Activities

Attendees: Amanda Ashley, Faruk Arslan, Frank Boutsen, Hameed Badawy, Lisa Hermanson, Thomas Manz, Runwei Li, Omer Holguin, Peter Smoak, Jianjun Paul Tian

Time: 4pm - 5:10pm, January 23, 2025

Format: zoom meeting online

Meeting brief:

This was a good meeting and we have many discussions. Since many ideas and opinions were intertwined and spontaneous, the names of members will not be mentioned in the report. (1) We discussed Motoko Furrhashi's proposal from our meeting in the last December. Since Motoko was not in the meeting, we considered all possible situations where a technician in arts could help and where such a technician could be supported. At the current stage, we agreed that it is not suitable for the faculty senate to consider. Amanda Ashley agreed to communicate and provide more information to Motoko outside the meeting since Motoko was not in the meeting. (2) We briefly re-discussed the first topic from the last semester about summer salary paid by grants. We will put it aside now and come back when we have more information from the administration. There was an idea came out that our salary is too low comparing with our peers, and there is a need to increase our salary so that faculty can focus on their work instead of seeking compensation. This is important for faculty retention. Actually, in some departments the salary is too low which is negatively affected faculty retention. Some consider the salary issue should be addressed by the union. (3) We continued our discussion about faculty startup packages. Omer Holguin had explored this in his college. He agreed to explore more and bring more information for the next meeting.

Reported by: Paul Tian, the chair of the Standing Committee of RCA

Report time: January 28, 2025