

Research & Creative Activity Committee

Monthly Report – September 2026

The Research & Creative Activity (RCA) Committee met on September 15, 2026, via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m., and we had a quorum and adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Omar Holguin (Chair), Paul Tian, Koffi Djaman, Chuck Creusere, Thomas Manz, Runwei Li, Abdul Abdelkefi, and Motoko Furuhashi, Attended later: Thomas Manz

Guest: Dr. Manal Hamzeh Al Smadi

The committee reviewed Proposition 02_26/27, Open Access Publication Fund Allocation Committee Award Rules Amendments, including additional comments provided by Drs. Manal Hamzeh and Dulcinea Lara. Following discussion, the committee voted “Do Pass” on the proposition as submitted.

Dr. Manal Hamzeh attended the meeting and provided additional information regarding the need to support other forms of research and creative activity dissemination beyond traditional scholarly publication. She discussed public science communication and the costs associated with translating scholarly work into accessible audio, visual, digital, and other formats that can reach educators, community partners, policymakers, cross-disciplinary audiences, and the broader public. The committee agreed that these types of dissemination activities serve a different but complementary purpose to traditional scholarly publishing and warrant further consideration.

The committee agreed that, rather than incorporating these activities into the current Open Access Publication Fund proposition, the RCA Committee will further examine the broader need for support of research and creative activity dissemination across the university. This will include identifying the types of dissemination activities such as public science communication, media engagement, and other forms of communicating scholarly and creative work beyond traditional academic publication and associated costs that faculty may need support for, and considering whether a separate or sister committee or funding mechanism should be established to address these needs. The committee will also discuss this issue with the University Research Council (URC) and the Office of the Vice President for Research as it explores possible next steps.

The committee also discussed the ongoing search for the Associate Vice President for Research (AVPR), particularly the timing of the search while the university is also conducting a search for a permanent Vice President for Research (VPR). The committee raised questions regarding the rationale for filling the AVPR position prior to the selection of the permanent VPR and inquired with the Faculty Senate Chair regarding the purpose and timing of the search.

The committee also discussed scheduling for future meetings and will poll members to identify a meeting day and time that better accommodates committee availability.