

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD7524S

Date of Senate Approval 05/02/2024

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

FWDC 11: Change the name of the Undergraduate Research Program (URP) to the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program (URCAP) by Revising Guidelines for Faculty Handbook Section 11.3 Faculty Handbook [Section 11.3](#)

Effective: Immediately

Summary: Change the name of the Undergraduate Research Program (URP) to the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program (URCAP)

Remove language to indicate the program will pay the full cost of any student presenting at NCUR.

Rationale:

Name Change Rationale: In order to be inclusive of all students who engage in original projects, this proposal asks to add Creative Activity in the title of the program to become the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program. Creative Activity has been a part of the program since its inception, but students can be confused if their work counts as research and choose not to engage in the program due to this confusion. The name change is intended to alleviate confusion and foster an atmosphere of inclusivity.

The [Council on Undergraduate Research](#) (CUR) states:

“Undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry is fundamentally a pedagogical approach to teaching and learning. With an emphasis on process, CUR defines undergraduate research as: “A mentored investigation or **creative inquiry** conducted by undergraduates that seeks to make a scholarly or **artistic** contribution to knowledge.”

Since Fall 2021, the [Symposia schedule](#) has been called the “Symposium on Undergraduate Research, Creativity, and Community Engagement.”

In the Faculty Senate *APC Document #21: Undergraduate Research Scholar Designation*, which went into effect in Fall 1991, creative activity has been advertised, including the statement: “The research/creative project will be presented...students..may consult URPAC concerning the appropriate format, especially in the case of artistic projects.” For more

information, please [view](#) the Faculty Senate *APC Document #21: Undergraduate Research Scholar Designation*.

Examples of other schools that include creative activity in the name of their programs include, [UNC Greensboro](#): Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity; [Clemson University](#): Creative Inquiry + Undergraduate Research; [Vancouver Island University](#): Scholarship, Research & Creative Activity.

Departments in Support: Mathematics and Statistics, Computer Science, Humanities Program, Masters of Public Health, History, Physics and Astronomy, Economics, English, New Media*, Psychology, WGSS, Art and Art History, Drama.

Departments not in Support: Atmospheric Science.

*New Media wholeheartedly supports the name change to "Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program." As your justification states, creative activity has always been a component of our Undergraduate Research program, but our New Media majors sometimes balk at submitting their own creative work, because "research" is often interpreted specifically as either academic paper presentation or scientific poster presentation. Although one aspect of the New Media major does involve research and paper writing (our second student learning outcomes is: "Students develop a critical vocabulary with which to describe and analyze new media in writing"), our primary goal in New Media is that students create quality, culturally relevant media works (our first student learning outcome is: "Students develop a varied array of new media skills, allowing them to clearly communicate concepts and create work relevant to contemporary culture"). Adding "Creative Activity" aligns the title of the UR program more clearly and explicitly with the kinds of projects many of our New Media majors are producing.

NCUR Grants Language Rationale: For Travel/NCUR grants, to ensure equitable distribution of funding, all students receive the maximum amount per year for travel to undergraduate research and creative activity and/or discipline specific conferences. The language in this document and practice has been to pay the entire cost of traveling to NCUR, even if it is double to triple the maximum amount awarded to all other students traveling to other conferences; which unfairly supports students who choose to go to NCUR more than students who choose to present at discipline-specific conferences.

Revise Section 11.3 as follows:

11.3 ~~Undergraduate Research Program~~ Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program

The primary goal of the ~~Undergraduate Research Program (URP)~~ Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program (URCAP) is to provide participating students with a wide variety of research opportunities which support and supplement other educational activities. The program began in 1984 and founded the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) and the North Carolina Consortium on Undergraduate Research.

~~URP~~ The URCAP allows students to work closely with faculty on a wide variety of research projects; undergraduates share in the difficulties of planning and conducting research, as well as in the excitement of discovery. Students learn that research is not an esoteric, mysterious process, and they learn to organize themselves for a world of imperfect answers to sometimes fuzzy questions. Across all areas of interests, participating students benefit from a different kind of learning experience that changes their perspective on knowledge and education.

~~URP~~ The URCAP provides the organizational and programmatic structure for research experiences, usually reserved for graduate-level students, across the arts, humanities, natural sciences or social sciences. The innovative, nationally recognized program includes:

- Academic year and summer research grants
- Travel grants
- Faculty scholars/mentors
- Editors and publishers of the annual Proceedings of NCUR
- Campus-wide undergraduate research symposia
- The UNCA Journal of Undergraduate Research
- University Research Scholar designation upon graduation
- Membership and participation in the North Carolina ~~Consortium on Undergraduate Research~~ Council on Undergraduate Research

Students who have worked on research projects, whether or not they were funded by the ~~URP~~ URCAP are invited to present their results at one of ~~three~~ **two** Undergraduate Research ~~Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity~~ Symposia held on campus each year. ~~The Program also funds travel grants for fifteen to twenty-five students and faculty to attend the Fall Conference of the North Carolina Consortium on Undergraduate Research, held in Durham, North Carolina, and the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, held at various campuses around the country in the spring.~~ More information about the program is available at <https://urp.unca.edu/>.