

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD7724S

Date of Senate Approval 05/02/2024

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

FWDC 13: Change the name of the Undergraduate Research Program (URP) to the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program (URCAP) by Revising Faculty Handbook Section 10.4.23 Faculty Handbook [Section 10.4.23](#)

Effective Date: Immediately

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

Remove the currently non-existing position of NCUR Proceedings editor from the Advisory Committee list.

Remove that the program approves Departmental Research Scholars. We approve University Research Scholars, but individual departments approve Departmental Research Scholars.

Remove NCUR grants from the list of responsibilities. Travel grants include grants for students to travel to present at NCUR, so this is redundant with Travel grants listed just below it in the list of responsibilities.

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." 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 Proceedings Editor Removal Rationale: NCUR stopped publishing article proceedings after 2020, therefore the editor position of the Proceedings no longer exists.

Departmental Research Scholars Removal Rationale: Individual departments approve Departmental Research Scholars, not this program.

Remove NCUR Grants Rationale: Travel grants include grants for students to travel to present at NCUR, so this is redundant with Travel grants listed just below it in the list of responsibilities.

Revise Section 10.4.23 as follows:

10.4.23 Undergraduate Research Programs Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program
Advisory Council (SD6903S) (SD9216S)

Purpose

The ~~Undergraduate Research Program~~ Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program Advisory Council is needed to provide consistent faculty, student and staff input into the ~~Undergraduate Research Program~~ Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program.

Responsibilities

1. Offer direction for the program.
2. Establish policies and guidelines for grants and activities.
3. Evaluate grant proposals from students
 - Regular semester grants
 - Summer grants
 - ~~NCUR grants~~
 - Travel grants
4. Approve recognition of students as University Research Scholars ~~or as Departmental Research Scholars~~
5. Seek ways of enhancing the program through increasing financial resources and addressing ways for the program to be recognized on and off campus.
6. Assist in planning, reviewing and critiquing the ongoing activities
 - Fall symposium
 - Spring symposium
 - ~~UNCA Undergraduate Research Journal.~~ UNC Asheville Journal of Undergraduate Research.

Membership

- Director of ~~Honors Program~~ the University Honors Program, *ex officio*
- ~~Editor of the NCUR (National Conference on Undergraduate Research) Proceedings, ex officio~~
- Director of ~~Undergraduate Research Program~~ the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program, *ex officio*
- Program Assistant Associate of ~~Undergraduate Research Program~~ the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program, *ex officio*
- 3 faculty members (one from each academic area, appointed by FWDC)
- 1 member of the library staff (appointed by the Director of the ~~Undergraduate Research Program~~ Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program in consultation with the University Librarian)
- 4 students (appointed by the Director of ~~URPAC~~ the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program in consultation with the Director of the ~~Honors Program~~ University Honors Program.)

Faculty and library staff members will serve two-year, staggered, terms, renewable for two additional terms. Students will serve one-year terms, renewable for one year.

Recommendations to: Director of ~~Undergraduate Research~~ **the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program**

Reports to: Provost and ~~VCAA~~ **Dean of Special and Graduate Programs** or his/her designee.