

To WPI Faculty

From Financial and Administrative Policy (FAP) and the
Committee on Graduate Studies and Research

Motion to Change description of Research Development Council - RDC

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Background

- The Research Development Council (RDC) was conceived and approved by faculty vote in 1986 as a way to nurture and develop excellence in research and scholarship among members of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)
- For financial reasons, funding of the RDC was discontinued shortly after it was established until the winter of 1999, when an allocation was made to fund a limited number of programs. Additional funding was then made available for awards to be made for fiscal year 2001 projects. The funding was discontinued in 2009.

Role

- The role of the Research Development Council (RDC) is to serve as an advisory board to the Vice Provost for Research (VPR). RDC provides advice and assistance to the VPR on the development of research, research planning, and research policy.

Responsibilities

The specific roles and responsibilities of the RDC are:

- Strategic planning to maximize research productivity of faculty and staff and to support highly innovative, transformative research
- To administer internal review of pre-proposals for limited submission opportunities
- To administer internal research funding programs
- To review and recommend updates to the indirect cost return (ICR) reinvestment model as needed

Responsibilities – cont.

- To develop yearly RDC budget recommendation, including, but not limited to support of:
 - repair and maintenance of research instrumentation,
 - multi-institutional research initiatives,
 - internal research funding programs for all disciplines, and
 - cost sharing

Responsibilities – cont.

- To coordinate research infrastructure requests in support of new Faculty recruitment across with Department Heads, Deans and the Provost
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Membership

The Research Development Council consists of the Vice Provost for Research and 8 faculty members with a record of significant scholarly research contributions.

Faculty members serve staggered 3-year terms. Any member can be reappointed after a minimum of one year between terms.

- One faculty member is appointed by the Dean of Foisie Business School.
- Two faculty members are appointed by the Dean of Engineering.
- Two faculty members are appointed by the Dean of Arts and Sciences.
- One faculty member is appointed annually by the VPR.
- One faculty member is appointed by the COG.
- One faculty member is appointed by the Committee on Graduate Studies and Research.

Discussion