

ANNUAL REPORT
Date Due: July 31, 2011

University Research Committee

University of North Alabama
Florence, Alabama

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July 29, 2011
Date submitted

Submitted to: Dr. John G. Thornell and Dr. Sandra Loew
Title/Committee (if applicable)

Date received

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA

ANNUAL REPORT

2010-2011

I. Executive Summary

This year, the Research Committee (RC) worked closely with Dr. Tanja Blackstone, the recently-appointed Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs, on several issues related to faculty research procedures and university support for research. The RC focused on two major topics: a review of the university copyright policy (in compliance with SACS requirements) and university support for faculty research. After deliberation, the RC generally approved the revised copyright policy for UNA with only one exception: Section 3 Item #4, which specifically removes “non-faculty employees of the University” from having copyright opportunities. The RC committee recommended that these employees have copyright privileges.

The second major topic that was discussed was related to the university support for grant administration. More specifically, language in the “Guidelines for the Acceptance and Use of Externally Funded Grants and Contracts” related to secretarial or administrative assistant support of grants that do not allow for costs associated with administrative support. Dr. Blackstone presented suggestions for changing section B.2 of the guidelines, a copy of which was provided to each committee member. After an hour of deliberations, Dr. Blackstone agreed to amend the language.

In addition to these topics, Dr. Blackstone suggested that the RC should include representatives from the College of Nursing and other stakeholders in the research process. The RC agreed with this suggestion, which should be an action item in the next academic year.

The RC was asked to discuss the move of UNA from Division II to Division I athletics. The committee members unanimously agreed that UNA should not move into DI sports and, in fact, some committee members presented the opinion that UNA should move into DIII sports. The committee noted that the primary mission of the university is academic and that research activities, often requiring funding, are playing a larger role in faculty evaluations and promotions. The primary concern was that increased support of athletic could adversely affect university support of research.

II. The Committee’s Charge (from the Shared Governance Document)

The charges of the University Research Committee are:

1. To serve as an advisory committee on the University’s research function and related issues
2. To serve as a screening board, recommending action for University

released time and non-released time research grants (not including those grants given through individual college research committees)

3. To gather information on the University's research efforts and related issues, and assess University performance in these areas in light of the information obtained
4. To propose changes in University policies, procedures, and practices on research and related issues
5. Handle all proposals affecting University policy according to section C.2 "Shared Governance Procedure for Policy Change Recommendations"

III. The Committee met on the following dates:

The Research Committee met on October 20, 2010 and March 3, 2011. In addition, committee business, particularly in discussions related to the move from DII to DI

committee will need to be expanded to include representatives of all stakeholders in research pursuits. This may include, but not be limited t