

ANNUAL REPORT

Research Committee

**University of North Alabama
Florence, Alabama**

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Date submitted

Submitted to: Dr. Lee Renfro
Chair, Shared Governance Executive Committee

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

I. Executive Summary

The University Research Committee released the 2023-2024 grant application in December 2023, completed applications were due January, 31st 2024. The committee met on March, 11th 2024 to review grant proposals and vote on funding awards. While 22 applications were received, 16 projects with a total budget of \$35,000 were approved for funding. The \$35,000 VPAA budget was firm this year, the total asked was over \$51,000. Additionally, gran reports are to be received by 9/30/23 for all awarded grants for the 22-23 academic year. All of these were submitted by 10/2/2023.

II.
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he Committee's Charge (from the Shared Governance Document)

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. To handle any proposals the committee may make affecting university policy according to section C.2 "Shared Governance Procedures for Policy Change Recommendations"
6. To submit a final written report electronically by the first day of the fall semester to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs with a copy sent to the Chair of the SGEC

III. The Committee met on the following dates:

The committee had multiple email correspondences that included the appointment of a vice chair (only one nomination so no vote needed), approval of the grant application (no changes needed), dates for submission (chosen by chair), and approval of the rubric (no changes needed), however it is only necessary for this committee to meet to discuss proposals. We met via zoom on 3/11/24 to discuss the 22 proposals submitted. Each committee member reviewed each proposal during the month of February, using a provided rubric. The scores were compiled and a list was provided to each committee member prior to the discussion. The meeting lasted 90 minutes with a great deal of discussion. We had 22 proposals totaling over \$51,000, but the committee could only award \$35,000 per the Provost's instruction.

IV. What were the Committee's actions and accomplishments this year relative to each of the items of the charge?

The committee worked very well together in making some very difficult decisions. Given the financial constraints this year (\$35,000 firm) we had to make quite a few cuts to requests (22 proposals with only 16 being funded). Everyone on the committee did a great job reviewing the applications and discussing if a proposal should be approved, or not. There isn't a lot for this committee to do throughout the year, the crux of their work comes during the spring in reviewing all the applications. It is a lot to ask of faculty, but they all did a great job and took it very seriously!

V. What were the Committee's formal recommendations?

After careful evaluation, the committee recommended partially or fully funding 18 projects out of 22 submitted proposals for various activities such as research projects and creative artworks. Two awarded grants were withdrawn later. Some committee members would like the application form updated to a more modern format. Dr. Greer will be working with the committee in 24-25 to evaluate the rubric and application.

VI. What does the Committee plan to accomplish?

A. In the coming year?

Updating the application to a more user-friendly document.

B. In future years?

The committee will re-evaluate the application process.

VII. What are the Committee's weaknesses?

I do not perceive any weaknesses. The funding is generous from the VPAA's office. However, applications and amount requested seems to be increasing each year. Additional funds may be needed, as faculty do not have much provided to them in regards to research.

A. What can the Shared Governance Committee help you do to address the weaknesses?

Support the committee in their ask to increase funding each year. A % increase each year is needed to meet inflation cost (as most of our asks are for travel to conferences and trainings).

VIII. Comments

No additional comments