

Charge for Undergraduate Research Working Group September 2008

Members include: Ian Gatley (chair), Lynn Wild (chair),

Charge: By 1 December, 2008: Develop recommendations that will expand the current undergraduate research program to a university-wide program while retaining success.

Background and purpose: The current undergraduate research program, delivered by the College of Science, has demonstrated a real value to the experiential learning opportunity for our students and has substantially grown in student and faculty participation. The purpose of this charge is to develop recommendations for the Provost and President to consider that will expand this program to across campus and increase the numbers and research further.

Suggestions or ideas:

1. Could a different quarter-based calendar aid in offering more undergraduate research opportunities?
2. How can recruitment or orientation be enhanced through a campus-wide approach to undergraduate research?
3. What is the connection of undergraduate research to the academic programs, general education or the honors program?

Requirements:

1. Target date: 1 December 2008 so that implementation and marketing can happen in time for the summer.
2. Recommendations must be in alignment with the mission of RIT and in accordance to RIT policies.
3. Recommendations must address other RIT priorities such as increasing the number of honors students, increasing sponsored research awards, increasing summer activity, etc.
4. Recommendations should include resources needed to accommodate growth of students, anticipated student learning outcomes, assessing those outcomes.

Guiding questions:

1. What does the current level of activity indicate for the potential increased level of activity? (Where are the low-hanging fruits?)
2. How can these new activities generate revenue for RIT, increase the level of activity on campus, AND fulfill some RIT priorities?
3. What are some obstacles in the way that prevent RIT from achieving this goal?
4. Are there unintended consequences from the achievement of this goal?