

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD  
ACADEMIC SENATE

**RCU Handbook Language  
RES 1213018**

FAC

**RESOLVED:**

that Policies and Guidelines for the Research Council of the University (RCU) be incorporated into the University Handbook as follows:.

**308.4 Research Council of the University: Policies/Guidelines**

A Research Council of the University shall be established with broad responsibility for awarding assigned time to faculty on a competitive basis in response to proposals requesting support for basic or applied research, creative or scholarly activity, or professional development that enriches the academic and learning environment of the University. In addition, the RCU shall have a major advisory role in decisions concerning the use of other “general” research or professional development funds (e.g., CSU budget faculty research money; indirect costs funds used to support research; private discretionary research contributions; etc.), and shall endeavor to increase the visibility of research on the campus.

**308.4.1 Membership**

The RCU shall have the following membership:

Dean, Graduate Studies and Research (chair)

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (non-voting)

Four, tenured or tenure-track faculty, one each elected from and by the faculty of the School of Arts and Humanities, School of Business and Public Administration, School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering, and the School of Social Sciences and Education.

A pool of potential alternates for the four tenured or tenure-track faculty members, selected from recipients of RCU awards from the past two award cycles, to serve in the place of the elected tenured or tenure-track faculty elected by the members of their respective schools.

One upper division or postbaccalaureate student, selected by the Associated Students

**308.4.2 Terms**

The faculty members shall serve staggered two-year terms, with ~~three~~ **two** individuals elected during even numbered academic years (e.g., AY 2012-13) and two individuals elected during odd numbered academic years (e.g., AY 2013-14). The student member will serve a one-year term. A member may

serve consecutive terms. RCU members may be applicants for an award during ~~his or her~~ **their terms** of office **service**. RCU applicants must recuse themselves from all deliberations over and ranking of their proposals. In such cases, the remaining committee members will select an appropriate replacement from the pool of alternates defined above, preferably from the same school as the recused member.

### **308.4.3 Procedures**

The RCU shall establish by majority vote and publish its own written procedures, consistent with this policy statement, governing the time(s) and format for applications for assigned time and other “general” research or professional development funds as defined above as well as the criteria to be used in evaluating them. The RCU shall determine whether one or several rounds of competition best serves the interests of the University. Any tenured or tenure-track faculty member may apply for assigned time and/or other “general” research or professional development funds, and all applicants shall have a reasonable opportunity to compete. Although no specific distribution of assigned time awards across schools or departments is established by this policy, the RCU shall make its decisions with evident fairness and appreciation of the differing forms of research and scholarly activities characteristic of the disciplines from which the various proposals originate.

Each application for assigned time and/or other “general” research or professional development funds shall first be reviewed by the appropriate School Dean as to programmatic considerations, and the Dean’s written comments shall be communicated to the applicant and to the RCU. The RCU shall make its decisions by majority vote. It is expected that all of the available assigned time and/or other “general” research or professional development funds will be awarded each academic year. The RCU will forward its recommendations for distribution of assigned time to the office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and this office shall periodically publicize the names of those individuals who have received awards and the nature of their projects.

**DISTRIBUTION:** This resolution shall be distributed to the President, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Associate Vice President for Faculty Affairs, Department Chairs, and General Faculty.

**RATIONALE:** 2012-2013 REFERRAL #00023 requests that policies for the Research Council of the University (RCU) be incorporated into the handbook. The above resolution accomplishes that end. The proposed resolution also corrects technical errors in existing policy.

Approved by the Academic Senate on February 14, 2013  
Sent to the President for approval on February 22, 2013  
Approved by the President on April 4, 2013