



Committee for Undergraduate Research (CUGR)

MINUTES

April 18, 2024 · Administration Building 2302 · <https://csusm.zoom.us/j/82869404191>

Attendees:

Jane Kim (Chair), Charles De Leone, Deanna Schmidt, Deborah Fearheller, Deanna Schmidt, Dennis Kolosov, Elinne Becket, Kang Du, Karen Tinajero Vazquez, Leila Abrous-Sasanka, Lucy HG Solomon, Nahid Ebrahimi Majd, Robert Iafe, Yu Zhang

1. **Welcome!** *Chair Jane Kim called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm*
2. **Minutes**
 - a. March meeting minutes will be distributed before the May meeting.
3. **Approval of the Agenda**
 - a. Kim asked if everyone had a chance to review the agenda. *Agenda reviewed by committee and approved as distributed.*
4. **Announcements**
 - a. Grad Slam – held Friday, April 5
 - Results posted at <https://www.csusm.edu/gradstudies/newsevents/gradslam/gradslam.html>
 - b. 38th Annual California State University Student Research Competition – April 26-27
 - <https://studentresearch.calpoly.edu/38th-annual-california-state-university-student-research-competition>
5. **Kerri Mowen Call and Rubric**

Kim reviewed the clarification of the call and creation of a new rubric, which was discussed at March meeting. Kim asked for feedback, and Majd shared that spelling out RSCA in the rubric would be helpful to distinguish that this is not referring to the RSCA award administered through OGSR, rather the general term for research, scholarship, and creative activities. Modification was approved.
6. **Establishing a New CUGR Scholarship**

Kim reported the status of funds resulting from SCCUR 2019 hosted at CSUSM. Surplus \$26K was intended to establish an endowment fund to support student research, but this has not been carried out. A detailed description is on Teams. The following are some considerations and action items:

 - As an endowment, the principal (currently \$26K) would be untouched and there would be an annual “spend allocation” of ~3-4% allocated annually. Kolosov pointed out that the amount given to students might not keep up with inflation over time.
 - Kim will clarify whether “scholarship opportunity” is based on financial need and/or requires student to have filled out FAFSA. If based on need, this might limit the emphasis on supporting student RSCA. Update: for “scholarship opportunity” student will need to have completed FAFSA or CADAA.
 - Solomon pointed out that, as an endowment, funding students in perpetuity is great and if executed as a scholarship through Financial Aid, the involvement of community members for selecting student recipient based on CUGR criteria could be an additional strength.
 - Du pointed out that review of scholarship essays by community members may advantage students who have stronger writing skills, rather than their potential for RSCA.
7. **Fall CSUSM Student Poster Showcase Awards**

Kim, Ridder, Solomon, and Van Metre worked on a description/proposal of awards for the Student Poster Showcase. Because the funds were to have come from the SCCUR account, Kim requested to defer this discussion until CUGR decides whether the money will remain in a stateside account or be converted to an endowment.

8. Learning Aligned Employment Program (LAEP)

- Kim reported that there will be another deadline for NEW position proposals (May 9, 2024) and asked for CUGR to share info with colleagues. This deadline is so new faculty mentors can submit paperwork to pay students from Day 1 of the Fall 2024 semester or to adjust pay rate. Mentors should work with their college analyst for hiring. If your proposal was previously approved and your position description has not changed, there is no need to resubmit a position proposal.
- Kim also reported that discussions with LAEP director, Julie Lindenmeier, indicated that resource/staff shortage in Financial Aid office limits the ability to expand LAEP to summer and offer specific accommodations/adjustments for students. We will consult with Lindenmeier and then set up a meeting with VP Leon Wyden in Fall 2024 to share the impact of LAEP and advocate for more resources to support LAEP.
- Kolosov requested if there could be an increase from one to two position proposals per faculty mentor. LAEP subcommittee will discuss feasibility.

9. Barry Goldwater Scholarship

This is a prestigious research scholarship of \$7,500 per academic year for students studying natural sciences, math, engineering. Each campus can nominate a limited number of students (4 undergraduates, 1 transfer student, 1 military). lafe has volunteered as the campus representative for the last three years, helping to coach students and move applications forward. This has been a substantial solo effort, which has resulted in three CSUSM winners to date! lafe requested a subcommittee within CUGR to help with this process, which would distribute workload and encourage participation across more disciplines. Kolosov volunteered for the Goldwater subcommittee.

10. Adjournment.

- a. *The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 12:54 pm.*

Next Meeting:

The next CUGR meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2024, from 12:00 – 1:00 pm. The in-person portion of this meeting will be held in ADM 2302.