COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY (CRSCA)

MEETING DATE: Thursday, February 19th, 2026, 12:45-2:30pm via Zoom

APPROVED MINUTES

Present: Michelle Gravier, Omri Shimron, Chandra Khan, Jenny Hazlehurst, Surrendra Sarnikar, Benjamin Smith, Jiannan Wang, Ya You, Babak Esmaeili, Michael Stanton

Guests: Mark Robinson, Christian Roessler

Absent: none

1. Land Acknowledgement
2. Approval of the agenda

   Motion to approve Benjamin Smith, seconded by Omri Shimron. Approved.
3. Approval of 2/5/26 draft minutes

   Minor fix to item numbering - friendly amendment. Motion to approve Benjamin Smith, seconded by Ya You. Approved.
4. **Reports**
   a. Report of the Chair
      i. RSG update
         1. Reviews are in progress - will discuss at March 19th meeting (closed discussion)

            Minutes: RSG also known as RSCA support grants. Try to attend the March 19 meeting to join discussion.
      ii. CSU Student Research Competition update
         1. Sent out reviews Feb 17th, reviews due March 3 for discussion at March 5th meeting (4 reviews each)

            Minutes: Potential issues with transition to Outlook from Google and email/calendar access. Send reminders.
            Don't need to give feedback on every rubric item, just overall comments.
            Feedback is visible to students to enable them to improve their proposals.
            Be sure to check for IRB or IACUC approval if relevant.
            In past years have had students place in top 3.
      iii. Charter renewals
         1. CBE in HRT - approved by Senate
         2. Center for Economic Education - new director coming on board. Will submit response by March 5th meeting

New director; still working.

3. Center for Research, Equity, and Collaborative Engagement

iv. Writing Accountability Group - applications open until Feb 20th. Group starting in March

v. Grad Slam Research Presentation Competition: April 13th, 12-2 pm in UU MPR

1. Applications open

Due mar. 6; stem or non-stem focused.

2. Judge still needed

b. Report of the Presidential Appointee

Busy with support for faculty grant writing. Several large grants in the works.
OSCAR director open for interim position.
Graduate studies director open for full position.
Mike Kusiak could be invited to a future meeting.
Transition to SFB regional network.
STEM-NET Fellows nominated every year; However, this year no calls for funding have been announced yet.
Biotechnology Affinity Group (CSUPERB) travel grant is open.
Discussion on a slight tangent: Senate presented plans for allocation of the $50 mill donation and are soliciting feedback.
-$3 mill seed fund. Concern: However, many groups already do this work, you don't need to create a whole new system/committee for research support.
-Draw attention to shared governance.
-CRSCA may want to draft a statement to communicate that we already have systems in place for on campus grant review.
-Statement of concern: "A transparent and inclusive proposal process is under development and will be shared widely with the campus community once completed." but we already do this.
-We might want to endorse a resolution stating that we would like to be involved in this process, would like to fulfill our role as stated in constitution and bylaws as it relates to CRSCA.
-Should it go through Senate or Presidential Appointee?
-Committee workload might go up.
-Where will limited submission calls be announced to faculty? Will be sent to Michelle and forwarded to Senate, also through Deans and Academic Affairs Newsletter.

c. Report of the Subcommittees

i. N/A

5. Business

a. Smith Center Charter Renewal
   i. Comment and Response Email
   ii. Revised Charter
   iii. Revised Charter Letter of Support
   iv. Staff info Email from Center Director
   v. Email Clarification about Release Rate
   vi. Email Clarifying Center Office Space

   Minutes: Guest at meeting Director Christian Roessler to help answer questions.
   -Office Space: It is the Director's faculty office, should they no longer be the director it will go back to being just a faculty office.
   -Release rate issue was brought to Admin; it is not an issue because it's not a fee for service situation.
   -Office space: one line clarifying issue: it's not that it's designated for the center, it's used for the faculty office and on the side as the center.
   -Staffing: Center used to have staff, but no longer does; at that time Smith Center Director was supervisor of staff member. That is no longer true, as Director is not supervising the CBE office staff. Add a statement that the Charter does not obligate the university to contribute resources. Addendum to charter application on Interfolio. Suggested changes were made during meeting so it will not need to go through another round of review/revision, supported by Smith Director. Director confirms that in gift details there is no promise or obligation of office space or staff.
   Motion to approve the Smith Center recharter application from Benjamin Smith, seconded by Jenny Hazlehurst. No objections, abstentions. Approved. Will be sent to ExCom for March 3rd meeting.

6. Discussion
   a. Center for Research, Equity, and Collaborative Engagement Charter renewal and Chair letter
   Minutes: Departmental center, not a college center so includes a dept. Chair letter.
   b. Document updates: Review 2-3 to update outdated language and information, but also through the lens of 24-25 FDEC 3
      i. CRSCA Policy
      ii. CRSCA Procedures
      iii. Center and Institute Procedures
      iv. Policy on Faculty RSCA Grants

   Minutes:
   -FDEC updates; Can we pick 1 or 2 to focus on for updating.
   -Proposal: Policy on institutional human subjects and animal care research - they were never

updated to state that IACUC and IRB are no longer a CRSCA subcommittee.

-Need to get rid of subcommittee language.

-IACUC and IRB don't have authority under constitution, if they want to update the policy they can't.

-Alternate proposal: review #4 policy on faculty rsca grants, for example language allowing extensions under certain conditions. Update to reflect mini grants, etc.

-Moving forward will focus on IRB/IACUC and Policy on Faculty RSCA Grants.

7. Adjournment