

Report of the Ad Hoc committee of the Faculty Congress examining Summer Research Fellowships and Research Support Grants

Members: Charles Ashley, Danai Chasaki, Jerusha Connor, Rick Eckstein, Sally Scholz (chair), Nancy Sharts-Hopko

Description of Committee Process: The committee generated a list of questions and concerns via email and then met to augment the list and to discuss various approaches obtaining the necessary information. All committee members examined the materials publicly available online (https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/vpaa/orgp/research/internal_research/SRF.html) with special attention to information about the process, eligibility, and procedures. Scholz also had a database (name, type of grant, department, college) of all recipients back to 2007 compiled (information on recipients available online) (See Appendix A). The committee utilized the available information to address many of our committee generated questions.

The committee met (4/24/2014) to discuss next steps. It was agreed that we ought to approach the AVPAA as a partnership to best serve the interests of the faculty. We discussed and proposed the following to be part of a conversation with the AVPAA and ultimately part of our final report:

- Develop a “Best Practices” guidelines for department chair [Appendix B]
- Encourage AVPAA to present programs at New Faculty Orientation
- Enhance website with descriptors of what sorts of projects might be funded by which sorts of grants
- Enhance website with link to exemplars (successful applications) or otherwise provide those in the office of AVPAA

Representatives from our committee (Scholz and Sharts-Hopko) met with the AVPAA for Research, Al Ortega, and Will Caverly, on May 2, 2014. Scholz framed the meeting by explaining our committee’s desire to serve the faculty, to partner with the AVPAA’s office in the interest of supporting the research of our faculty.

Information from this entire process is divided into seven categories. Sources of information are identified in brackets: [AO] = Al Ortega; [online] = Research website (url above). When no label is provided, the information is committee discussion or deduced from what is provided.

Report:

I. What *process* does the committee follow in evaluating grant proposals (both SRF and RSG)?

- Questions: Are these programs evaluated separately? How are the proposals for one but not the other handled? What is the role of external review letters? Do we check for conflict of interest with external reviewers, especially if we rely on their expertise to judge the significance of the research topic?

RSG proposals can be submitted separately from SRF proposals, and are reviewed only by the evaluation committee using the evaluation criteria in section three of the online description (please also see section 4). Proposals for RSG funds only are evaluated separately. Proposals for SRF and SRF + RSG funding are evaluated according to the criteria in section three as well

as a peer review, a review of the Vita, an external review, and a letter of support [online].

Professor Ortega explained that each evaluation committee member is asked to identify the 8 applications they would feel most comfortable reviewing. Thus far, no proposals have not been assigned through that selection process but we did discuss that contingency. Every application is reviewed by 4 members of the committee. This review process is modeled on the NSF panel review. (In the former system, every committee member looked at every proposal.) Evaluators are asked to submit comments and the committee as a whole also appends comments. All applications receive feedback from the evaluation committee. [AO]

External review letters provide guidance on the contribution the proposed research will make and examine the feasibility of the proposal (from an expert standpoint). [online]

External letters are used in the review process (a minimum of 1 external letter) but given their uniformly positive nature, it is not clear what value they add to the process, according to Ortega. Ortega did add an additional element to the evaluation in the form of a chair's letter. This was suggested by two department chairs who spoke with him previously about the possibility of submitting an assessment of a faculty member's work. Department chairs are particularly well situated to provide context to an application, according to Ortega, indicating both the importance of the proposed research to the applicant and the field, and the place of the research in the applicants research program. Importantly, each application is evaluated separately for its quality, independent of any other applications from a single department. Chair's letters are not to rank order applicants and ought to be understood as aiding the evaluation committee in its understanding of the importance of a research project for a field and candidate. [AO]

Scholz and Sharts-Hopko raised the problem of methodological differences (esp. biases) and subfield biases with reliance on department chairs. Ortega acknowledge the problem but also claimed that he had not seen anything to date, noting that the chair was not being asked to rank order candidates, and that the committee members themselves could often counter some apparent negative bias regarding subfields or methodologies.

Regarding conflicts of interest, the proposal information form states the conflicts of interest should be avoided when selecting external reviewers; applicants should specify their relationship with external reviewers (have they published together? Do they have a personal relationship?). Former dissertation supervisors may not serve as external reviewers. [online]

II. What *criteria* does the selection committee use in its process?

- Questions: Is rank of applicant a consideration (and is this a matter of individual accomplishment or distribution of awards)? Are other demographic aspects considered (race, gender, religion, nationality, etc.)? Is department affiliation a factor? How are reports from previous grants used? The goal of the SRF and the RSG seems to be to fund projects that would obtain external funding later on. Does the selection committee pick proposals that they believe have a better chance of getting external funding? One has to demonstrate a significant outcome after receiving an SRF or RSG. From past awards, is it possible CLAS recipients have been poorer at showing their outcomes compared to the other colleges? Do we follow-up to see if the funding helped with a new line of research in terms of external grants, publications etc.

The revised program description (Revised Sep. 2013) states that any tenured or tenure track faculty member is eligible to apply. Looking at the profiles of past recipients, we find that all ranks have been considered and awarded the grant/fellowship. It is restricted to faculty members in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Villanova School of Business, College of Engineering and the College of Nursing. Other demographics (race, gender, religion, nationality etc.) do not seem to be considered. [online]

The goal of the SRF and the RSG is to fund projects that have the potential to perform key early stage research and obtain external funding later on. Even though the program description states that the recipient is required to demonstrate a significant outcome at the conclusion of the project in order to be eligible for future awards, it is not clear if the selection committee investigates this for future awards. The program description does not mention how reports from previous grants are handled, and if the selection committee picks proposals that have a better chance of getting external funding. [online]

Evidence of past publications/presentations is desirable, according to the program description. However, this seems to be a “plus” as an indicator of future publication plans, and not a requirement. [online] It demonstrates an applicant’s preparedness to undertake the research proposed. Importantly, however, the SRF and RSG do fund new research.

The guidelines do not contain any information on how the selection committee handles projects that require IRB approval. It is not clear whether a proposal could be rejected because the selection committee suspects it will not secure IRB approval. [online]

In conversation, Al Ortega explained that a proposal is evaluated separately from its IRB; however, a project that needs IRB approval will not receive its funding until that approval is secured. In other words, Professor Ortega explained that grants that involve research with human subjects would be awarded contingent on IRB approval. [AO]

The program guidelines do not link the University’s mission to the likelihood of funding of a particular proposal. Proposals that are more expressly tied to the mission seem to have equal chances in terms of selection. [online] This was confirmed in conversation with the AVPAA. He noted, however, that the Veritas grant, which is mission related, is now housed in the AVPAA’s office. [AO]

Information from past applicants indicates that feedback is provided for proposals that are not selected. The selection committee sends out letters justifying their decision, even though the program description does not mention anything about the purpose of this feedback, how it is crafted (collectively or individually) and how it is received.

The evaluation committee rates each application (Excellent, very good, good, fair, poor) according to the fulfillment of the criteria (Introduction/background, Objectives, Approach, Dissemination and future work, Impact and use of funds, Prior grant stewardship) prior to a meeting in January to discuss each application. Rank of applicant is not considered by the evaluation committee. The committee welcomes new projects and projects by untenured faculty members who have not yet demonstrated their research acumen (chair’s letters can aid in supporting such work simply because the past research record may not exist). The evaluation committee discussion is considered important to the evaluation and committee members act with

integrity in evaluating the applications and discussing their assessments. We also discussed the importance of IRB approval for some research proposals. [AO]

Outcomes from past SRF and RSG grants are included in subsequent applications. The committee considers those reported outcomes alongside the proposal for new funding. That is the only time that outcomes are measured. Post award requirements are listed online and in the manual.

III. Data

- Questions: What is the department distribution of grants for the last 5 years? What is the college distribution of grants for the last 5 years? What is the raw and percentage of success rate for colleges, departments, candidates?

A full listing of all grants received since 2007 may be found in Appendix A. That listing reveals the departmental breakdown for SRF and RSG funding. The data is organized by rank and tenure divisions in the following two sets of tables and figures.

SRF & RSG 2007-2013 [online]		
Social Sciences	28	25%
Humanities	27	24.1%
Natural Sciences	17	15.2%
Engineering	26	23.2%
Nursing	2	1.8%
Business	12	10.7%
TOTAL	112	

Table 1: RSG and SRF by College (and internal division with CLAS) for a 6 year period.

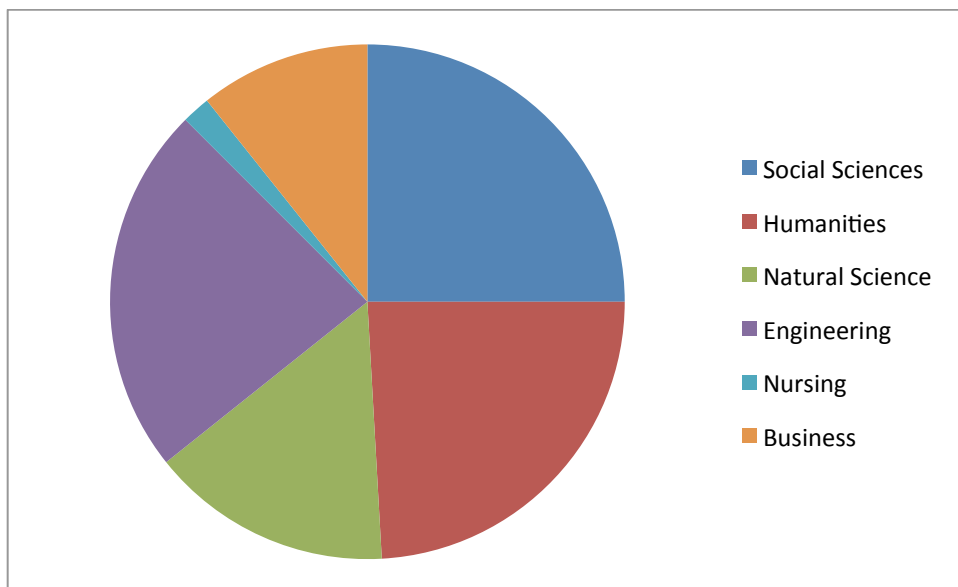


Figure 1: The distribution of SRFs and RSGs from 2007 to 2013.

As is evident from Table 1 and Figure 1, roughly 50% were awarded to the Social Sciences and Humanities during the years covered.

SRF & RSG 2014		
Social Sciences	5	29.4%
Humanities	4	23.5%
Natural Sciences	5	29.4%
Engineering	2	11.8%
Nursing	1	5.9%
Business	0	0
TOTAL	17	

Table 2: 2014 SRF and RSG.

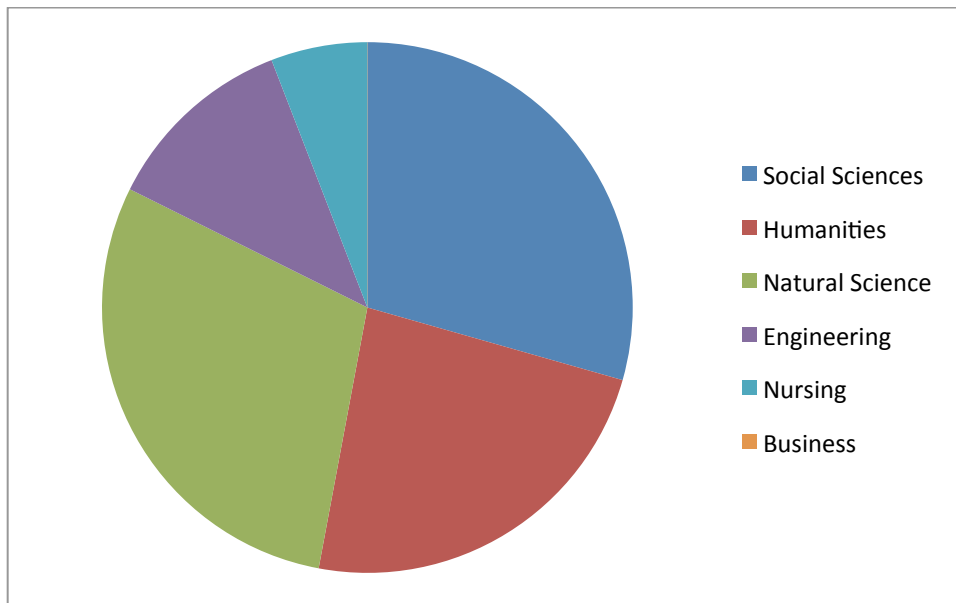


Figure 2: 2014 SRF and RSG illustrated

A new process—reflecting the change from Milton Cole to Al Ortega in administering the program and described above—was used for the 2014 grants. One evident change is that Business did not receive any grants; the VSB has generous summer funding for researchers. That impacts the incentives for VSB faculty to apply for University programs. However, Social Sciences and Humanities were still awarded about 50% of the grants.

Professor Ortega provided overall yield data for the last two years as well as yield data for the last 5 broken down by major divisions:

Year 2013	
Number of SRF Proposals	27
Number of SRF Awards	15
Number of RSG Proposals	15
Number of RSG Awards	13
Total amount awarded	\$182,500

Year 2014	
Number of SRF Proposals	21
Number of SRF Awards	16
Number of RSG Proposals	16
Number of RSG Awards	13
Total amount awarded	\$184,825

2009-2014 SRF/RSG by Discipline Groups (provided by the AVPAA – note that there are discrepancies with the numbers collected above)

2013-14

Discipline	2013-2014 # applicants	# of SRF awards	# of RSG awards
Social Sciences	11	7	1
Humanities	1	1	0
Natural Sciences	5	5	0
Nursing	2	1	0
Engineering	3	2	0
Business	1	0	0

2012-13 SRF/RSG

Discipline	2012-13# applicants	# of SRF awards	# of RSG awards
Social Sciences	11	7	1
Humanities	3	1	0
Natural Sciences	5	4	1
Nursing	0	0	0
Engineering	2	1	0
Business	3	1	0

2011-12 SRF/RSG

Discipline	2011-12 # applicants	# of SRF awards	# of RSG awards
Social Sciences	4	3	2
Humanities	6	4	2
Natural Sciences	5	3	3
Nursing	0	0	0
Engineering	8	8	7
Business	1	0	1

2010-11 SRF/RSG

Discipline	2010-11 # applicants	# of SRF awards	# of RSG awards
Social Sciences	6	1	1
Humanities	8	5	3
Natural Sciences	5	3	2
Nursing	0	0	0
Engineering	6	3	5
Business	4	4	1

2009-10 SRF/RSG

Discipline	2009-10 # applicants	# of SRF awards	# of RSG awards
Social Sciences	8	3	3
Humanities	9	5	3
Natural Sciences	8	3	4
Nursing	1	0	0
Engineering	6	4	3
Business	5	2	2

These data reveal that the SRF yield in the last two years ranged from 55% to 76%. The RSG yield ranged between an impressive 81% to 86%. Professor Ortega expressed the desire to seek additional funds and continue to increase the number of awards available to support faculty.

IV. What is the composition of the selection committee?

- Questions: Are some of the internal reviewers closely related to the discipline of the applicant? What is the College and/or department representation on the committee? What is the members' expertise in particular research methodology (experimental, quasi experimental, qualitative, mixed, historical/archival, community-engaged, etc.)? What is the demographic make-up of the committee (race/ethnicity, gender, rank)? Are all major disciplinary categories (sciences, social sciences, humanities, engineering, nursing, business) represented on the committee? Do faculty in those categories know who represents them on the SRF and RSG committee? Do representatives facilitate the submission of grants by their constituents (e.g. meet with them, offer procedural guidance, review drafts)? How is the selection committee determined? Does the Selection Committee meet in person or via email? What does the selection committee do when its members encounter a proposal that they collectively do not know how to evaluate because they lack familiarity with or understanding of the research problem/extant literature and/or the methodology/analytic approach?

The evaluation committee membership has been longstanding and, during the meeting with AVPAA Al Ortega, we discussed the strengths and weaknesses of that as well as a regular rotation model (much like the rank and tenure committees). [AO]

Professor Sharts-Hopko shared her experience in Nursing where the SRF and RSG evaluation committee member actively encourages applicants. We all noted the important role of the evaluation committee in offering advice and mentorship to applicants or potential applicants. Scholz acknowledged the role of department chairs in encouraging applicants and, again drawing on a suggestion from the Faculty Congress committee, said we would like to develop a “best practices” document to be approved by the AVPAA’s office and shared with department chairs.

The selection committee for the SRF and RSG has remained the same for many, many years (some members have been on the committee for 20 years although one new member was added in 2014 to replace someone who retired). The committee is listed below:

NAME	DEPT
Bauer, Aaron	Biology
Blewitt, Pam	Psychology
Brogan, Walter	Philosophy
Hicks, Heather	English
Dressler, Scott	Economics
Nataraj, C. “Nat”	Mechanical Engineering
Newbert, Scott	Management and Operations
Smeltzer, Suzanne	Nursing
Woldar, Andrew	Mathematics

Notice that the committee is composed of 2 members representing the natural sciences, 2 members representing the social sciences (one overlapping with business), 2 members

representing the humanities, 2 members representing business (one overlapping with social science), and 1 member each representing engineering and nursing. There are 3 women and 6 men on the committee (adding the chair, Al Ortega, that adjusts to 7 men and 2 engineers). There are 6 full professors and three associate professors on the committee. One committee member is a person of color.

Scholz and Sharts-Hopko discussed the methodological differences and whether the committee represented and/or appreciated different methodological approaches, as well as the desirability as well as the potential problems of having a standing committee whose membership does not regularly rotate. Examples of faculty who have been actively discouraged from submitted grants by committee members were presented to the AVPAA. Members of our committee also asked whether ethnography, mixed-methods, or community-engaged scholarship were appropriately appreciated by the selection committee. Professor Ortega expressed some willingness for a longer conversation about how best to constitute the committee.

A related issue pertaining to the committee is that the members are expected to provide encouragement and feedback in advance of a candidate's submission. However, the committee membership is not widely known nor is it available on the website in spite of the following invitation at the very bottom of the website):

12. Members of the Evaluation Committee

The current members of the Evaluation Committee (EC) are listed below. You are free to contact any member of the EC for advice or answers to your questions.

At the meeting with the AVPAA, we requested that the list be added to the webpage but as of the writing of this report, the message remains as pasted above without the committee membership. Please see the final section of this report for further discussion of this and related issues.

V. How are funds distributed?

- Questions: Do colleges have minimum or maximum numbers of grants (SRF and RSG)? Are there cases in which only partial funding is granted? If so, on what basis are these determinations made?

There is no college quota for the distribution of funds. Applications are evaluated according to their own merit as outlined in the criteria available online. As specified in this report as well as in the guidelines for applicants, the committee does at times grant partial funding in an effort to spread out the available resources. Decisions are made on a case by case basis but careful, accurate budgets that do not reflect over-inflated expenses are viewed positively by the evaluation committee. [AO]

VI. Outcomes: Next Steps and Action Points

Throughout the conversation and follow-up email with AVPAA, Al Ortega, we discussed the website and identified strengths and weaknesses. Please note that these were also recorded in an email to Al Ortega, Will Caverly, and Nancy Sharts-Hopko on May 5, 2014.

The current website offers a thorough discussion of the six review criteria. Scholz offered the suggestions of the Faculty Congress ad hoc committee:

- **Enhance website with descriptors of what sorts of projects might be funded by which sorts of grants**
- **Enhance website with links to exemplars (successful applications) or otherwise provide those in the office of AVPAA**

The meeting with the AVPAA also generated two additional ideas:

- **Enhance website with success stories and/or published results**
- **Include link to the IRB website on the webpage**
- **Consider a single page with links and information for all of the research funding opportunities at VU (these grants and Veritas)**

In addition to these web enhancements, we encouraged the identification of the grant in an acknowledgment in any published research that emerges from the SRF or RSG. The website could include a sample text of such acknowledgment, e.g., “Research for this article was supported by a Villanova University Summer Research Fellowship 2014.” Awardees should be encouraged (required) to include such a note and bibliographic information for the supported results could be provided on the website.

- **Develop a “Best Practices” guidelines for department chair (to be developed by our committee and approved by AVPAA)**
- **Encouraged AVPAA to present summer funding programs at New Faculty Orientation**

In a related matter, Will Caverly noted that the University has a new grant search tool. He worked with Associate Dean for Research in CLAS, Barry Selinsky, to present information to faculty about this new tool on May 19, 2014. As a side note, faculty on our committee noted that we were not made aware of this presentation and have not received information about the tool.

Finally, we discussed a very promising **longer-term conversation** that might include such things as:

- **Untenured scholar research grants**
- **Asking for additional money to support SRF and RSG**
- **How best to use the current funds**
- **Travel funds (in addition to RSG)**
- **Constitution of selection committee**
- **Role (and need for) external letters**
- **Impact of the outcome of one award for future awards**

Kel Wieder will be running the SRF program this coming year. Sally Scholz and Nancy Sharts-Hopko are meeting with him on 9/12/2014 to discuss this report (much of which appeared in an email to the AVPAA’s office back in May.) Al Ortega expressed the following on 9/11/2014: “Kel Wieder and I would be more than happy to come to a Congress meeting to discuss this program and other initiatives that we are developing in our office to help faculty in their research.”

Past Recipient	Year	Type of Award	Department	College	Gender	
Bamezai, Anil	2011	SRF, RSG	Biology	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Curry, Robert	2012	SRF, RSG	Biology	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Curry, Robert	2009	SRF, RSG	Biology	Villanova University	M	CLAS
DiBenedetto, Angela	2008	SRF	Biology	Villanova University	F	CLAS
Iyengar, Vikram Kode	2011	SRF, RSG	Biology	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Iyengar, Vikram Kode	2007	SRF	Biology	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Wilson, James W.	2013	SRF, RSG	Biology	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Wilson, James W.	2010	SRF, RSG	Biology	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Wykoff, Dennis D.	2011	SRF	Biology	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Wykoff, Dennis D.	2007	SRF	Biology	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Youngman, Matthew	2013	SRF, RSG	Biology	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Comolli, Noelle	2012	SRF, RSG	Chemical Engineering	Villanova University	F	ENG
Huang, Zuyi	2012	SRF, RSG	Chemical Engineering	Villanova University	F	ENG
Kelly, William J.	2008	SRF, RSG	Chemical Engineering	Villanova University	M	ENG
Skaf, Dorothy W.	2011	SG	Chemical Engineering	Villanova University	F	ENG
Smith, Michael	2012	SRF, RSG	Chemical Engineering	Villanova University	M	ENG
Eggler, Aimee	2013	SRF, RSG	Chemistry	Villanova University	F	CLAS
Kraut, Daniel	2013	SRF, RSG	Chemistry	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Minbiole, Kevin	2012	SRF, RSG	Chemistry	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Palechar, Jennifer	2007	RSG	Chemistry	Villanova University	F	CLAS
Radlinska, Aleksandra	2009	SRF, RSG	Civil and Environmental Engineering	Penn State University	F	ENG
Dinehart, David W.	2010	SRF, RSG	Civil and Environmental	Villanova University	M	ENG
McCarthy, Leslie	2011	SG	Civil and Environmental Engineering	Villanova University	F	ENG
Wadzuk, Bridget	2012	SRF, RSG	Civil and Environmental Engineering	Villanova University	F	ENG
Wadzuk, Bridget	2009	SRF, RSG	Civil and Environmental Engineering	Villanova University	F	ENG
Welkner, Andrea	2012	SRF, RSG	Civil and Environmental Engineering	Villanova University	F	ENG
Yost, Joseph Robert	2011	SRF, RSG	Civil and Environmental Engineering	Villanova University	M	ENG
Ksiazek, Thomas	2013	SRF, RSG	Communications	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Japaridze, Giorgi	2010	SRF, RSG	Computing Sciences	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Asher, Cheryl C.	2008	SRF	Economics	Villanova University	F	VSF
Dressler, Scott J.	2008	SRF	Economics	Villanova University	M	VSF
Kersting, Erasmus	2013	RSG	Economics	Villanova University	M	VSF
Kilby, Christopher	2009	SRF	Economics	Villanova University	M	VSF
Markin, Rayna	2012	SRF, RSG	Education and Counseling	Villanova University	F	CLAS
Schussler, Deborah	2007	SRF, RSG	Education and Human Services	Penn State University	F	CLAS
Wang, Xiaofong	2009	SRF, RSG	Electrical and Computing Engineering	Villanova University	F	ENG
Wang, Xiaofong	2012	SRF, RSG	Electrical Engineering	Villanova University	F	ENG
Dinehart, David W.	2007	SRF, RSG	Engineering	Villanova University	M	ENG
Duran, Metin	2007	SRF, RSG	Engineering	Villanova University	M	ENG
Nersesov, Sergey G.	2007	SRF	Engineering	Villanova University	M	ENG
Dailey, Alice	2007	SRF, RSG	English	Villanova University	F	CLAS
Drew, Alan	2011	SRF	English	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Hicks, Heather	2013	RSG	English	Villanova University	F	CLAS
Hicks, Heather	2009	SRF	English	Villanova University	F	CLAS
Lutes, Jean M.	2010	SRF, RSG	English	Villanova University	F	CLAS
Quigley, Megan M.	2011	SRF	English	Villanova University	F	CLAS
Rappoport, Jill	2009	SRF, RSG	English	University of Kentucky	F	CLAS
Lennon, Joseph	2012	SRF, RSG	English and Irish Studies	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Diavatopoulos, Dean	2011	SRF	Finance	Villanova University	M	VSF
Howton, Shawn D.	2008	SRF	Finance	Villanova University	M	VSF
Howton, Shelly	2010	SRF	Finance	Villanova University	F	VSF
Yang, Tina	2011	SRF	Finance	Villanova University	F	VSF
Goldsmith, Steven	2012	SRF, RSG	Geography and the Environment	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Weston, Nathaniel B.	2009	SRF, RSG	Geography and the Environment	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Bailey, Craig	2009	RSG	History	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Giesburg, Judith	2013	SRF, RSG	History	Villanova University	F	CLAS
Kolsky, Elizabeth	2011	SRF, RSG	History	Villanova University	F	CLAS
McCall, Tim	2009	SRF, RSG	History	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Rosier, Paul C.	2013	SRF, RSG	History	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Rosier, Paul	2010	SRF, RSG	History	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Winer, Rebecca Lynn	2011	SRF, RSG	History	Villanova University	F	CLAS
Tomko, Michael	2007	SRF	Humanities	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Quigley, Narda	2011	SRF	Management and Operations	Villanova University	F	VSF
Kees, Jeremy	2012	RSG	Marketing	Villanova University	M	VSF
Kees, Jeremy	2010	SRF	Marketing	Villanova University	M	VSF
Chaplin, Lan Nguyen	2011	SRF, RSG	Marketing and Business Law	University of Illinois-Chicago		VSF
Clayton, Garrett	2012	SRF, RSG	Mechanical Engineering	Villanova University	M	ENG
Feng, Gang	2011	SRF, RSG	Mechanical Engineering	Villanova University		ENG
Li, Calvin Hong	2012	SRF, RSG	Mechanical Engineering	Villanova University	M	ENG
Nersesov, Sergey G.	2010	SRF, RSG	Mechanical Engineering	Villanova University	M	ENG
Ural, Ani	2013	SRF, RSG	Mechanical Engineering	Villanova University	F	ENG
Ural, Ani	2010	SRF	Mechanical Engineering	Villanova University	F	ENG
Wu, Qianhong	2010	SRF, RSG	Mechanical Engineering	Villanova University	M	ENG
DiBenedetto, Angela	2010	SRF, RSG	Mechanical Engineering and Biology	Villanova University	F	CLAS
Karlsson Jens O.M.	2010	SRF, RSG	Mechanical Engineering and Biology	Villanova University	M	ENG
Bradley, Patricia	2007	SRF, RSG	Nursing	Villanova University	F	NUR
Mynnaugh, Patricia	2007	RSG	Nursing	Villanova University	F	NUR
Klein, Julie	2012	SRF, RSG	Philosophy	Villanova University	F	CLAS
Livingston, Paul	2007	SRF	Philosophy	University of New Mexico	M	CLAS
Nassar, Dalia	2010	SRF	Philosophy	University of Sydney	F	CLAS

Rockhill, Gabriel	2011 SRF, RSG	Philosophy	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Rockhill, Gabriel	2008 SRF, RSG	Philosophy	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Scholz, Sally	2012 SRF, RSG	Philosophy	Villanova University	F	CLAS
Thiem, Annika	2010 SRF	Philosophy	Villanova University	F	CLAS
Phares, Alain J.	2009 SRF	Physics	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Barrett, David M.	2008 SRF, RSG	Political Science	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Warrick, Catherine	2008 SRF, RSG	Political Science	Villanova University	F	CLAS
Brand, Rebecca J.	2013 SRF, RSG	Psychology	Villanova University	F	CLAS
Brand, Rebecca J.	2010 SRF, RSG	Psychology	Villanova University	F	CLAS
Brand, Rebecca	2007 SRF, RSG	Psychology	Villanova University	F	CLAS
Brogan, Walter A.	2009 SRF	Psychology	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Brown, Michael	2011 SRF	Psychology	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Else-Quest, Nicole M.	2009 SRF, RSG	Psychology	University of Maryland, Baltimore	F	CLAS
Folk, Charles L.	2010 SRF, RSG	Psychology	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Kan, Irene	2012 SRF, RSG	Psychology	Villanova University	F	CLAS
Kan, Irene P.	2009 SRF, RSG	Psychology	Villanova University	F	CLAS
Kurtz, John E.	2008 SRF, RSG	Psychology	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Ligon, Ginamarie	2010 SRF, RSG	Psychology	University of Nebraska, Omaha	F	CLAS
Markey, Patrick	2013 SRF, RSG	Psychology	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Markey, Patrick	2009 SRF, RSG	Psychology	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Matell, Matthew S.	2009 SRF	Psychology	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Slotter, Erica	2012 SRF, RSG	Psychology	Villanova University	F	CLAS
David, Emmanuel	2011 SRG	Sociology	Villanova University	M	CLAS
DeFina, Robert H.	2008 SRF	Sociology	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Payne, Allison	2007 SRF	Sociology	Villanova University	F	CLAS
Danove, Paul	2012 SRF, RSG	Theology	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Spitaler, Peter	2010 SRF, RSG	Theology	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Spitaler, Peter	2007 SRF, RSG	Theology	Villanova University	M	CLAS
Kees, Jeremy	2007 SRF, RSG	VSU	Villanova University	M	VSU
Kozup, John	2007 SRF	VSU	Villanova University	M	VSU
Luo, Wenhong	2007 SRF	VSU	Villanova University		VSU
Quigley, Narda	2007 SRF	VSU	Villanova University	F	VSU

Villanova Summer Research Fellowships and Research Support Grants

Best Practices for Chairs

Villanova University offers research support faculty research. Fellowships of up to \$10,000 and research support grants of up to \$2500 are available on a competitive basis each year for eligible faculty. The Faculty Congress, in conjunction with the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, is pleased to provide department chairs with this list of suggests. We hope this “best practices” facilitates awareness, encouragement, and application to the summer research support programs within the University.

It is recommended that Department Chairs (and appropriate senior members of a department):

- Learn more about the Summer Research Fellowship’s goals and objectives. The SRF aims to provide faculty the opportunity to engage in early stage scholarly research in a new research area or in a significant new direction in an existing research area.
 - Information about the Summer Research Fellowship (SRF) and the Research Support Grant (RSG) is available on the Academic Affairs website:
https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/vpaa/orgp/research/internal_research/SRF.html
- Notify new faculty of on-campus research support opportunities, especially the SRF and RSG. Information about additional internal grants may be found at the following websites:
 - Veritas (for mission related research):
https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/vpaa/orgp/research/internal_research/veritasaward.html
 - VITAL (for teaching related development and research):
<https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/vital/programs/callforproposals2014.html>
- All faculty should be reminded of the deadline(s) by their chairs a few weeks in advance of the deadline(s); it is recommended that chairs send a reminder email regarding the SRF and RSG grants on October 15 of each year.
- Encourage faculty applicants to seek advice from former recipients (all available online) as well as the appropriate member(s) of the SRF selection committee representing the applicant’s area of research. Allow the applicant to initiate such relations but facilitate possible mentoring relations within the department or interdisciplinarily among former recipients.
- Submit the chair’s letter (part of the application) in a timely manner. Chairs who are unfamiliar with an applicant’s line of research (content or methodology) ought to seek guidance from senior department members who are. If no one is available, outside consultation may be necessary. Chairs letters should do the following:
 - Situate the proposed research in the wider field or discipline
 - Discuss the applicant’s preparedness to undertake such research
- Chair’s letters should NOT rank the applicants in their departments, nor assess the research as an external reviewer would. Except in rare situations when the chair’s area of research matches the applicant’s, it is expected that the chair is not an expert on the research and is not providing an evaluation of research but rather a letter of support for the candidate’s ability to undertake a successful research project in line with the proposal.



To: Ad Hoc committee of the Faculty Congress examining Summer Research Fellowships and Research Support Grants

From: Dr. R. Kelman Wieder, Assistant Vice President for Research and Strategic Initiatives

cc: Dr. Alfonso Ortega, Associate Vice President for Research and Graduate Programs

Date: 18 September 2014

Re: Additional information regarding the SRG and RSG Programs

First of all, thanks to all of you for your work on reviewing the SRG/RSG program. I read your report carefully and also met with Drs. Scholz and Sharts-Hopko this past Friday. I very much appreciate the balanced and objective tone of your report. As you may know, I will be taking over the leadership of the SRG/RSG program. As the call for proposals typically is issued in mid-September, I anticipate making some small changes in the program this year. At the same time, over this academic year, I plan to engage the evaluation committee members, past award recipients, and your ad hoc committee, at a minimum, to assess how the current program might be changed to better serve the faculty and to more effectively foster research and scholarship across the University. I look forward to working with you in this effort.

On a somewhat different note, unaware that your ad hoc committee existed, I had independently begun an assessment of the SRF/RSG program. As your committee did not have access to submission information, you might find the information below of interest. Note that the numbers in these tables might not completely agree with the ones in your report because of the way I counted joint proposals with multiple faculty.

Data on submissions and award decisions for the Summer Research Grant and Research Support Grant programs were compiled for 4 of the past 5 funding cycles. Records regarding submissions are incomplete for 2010-2011, so data for this funding cycle were not included. For joint proposals from two or more faculty, the yes/no funding decision was counted for each faculty member. Thus, the data represent the number of faculty who submitted proposals, not the number of proposals submitted. Data are summarized by academic area (Table 1) and by faculty rank (Table 2). Over all academic areas and all years, funding success for the Summer Research Fellowship Program and for the Research Support Grant Program has been 64 and 79%, respectively, with success rate being independent of either academic area or faculty rank (Table 3).

Table 1. Summer Research Fellowship (SRF) and Research Support Grant (RSG) awards and declines by academic area over four funding cycles. Data from 2010-2011 omitted because of incomplete records.

Year	Academic Area	Number of faculty			
		SRF awards	SRF Declines	RSG Awards	RSG Declines
2009-2010	Social Sciences	3	5	3	3
	Humanities	5	3	3	2
	Natural Sciences	3	5	4	2
	Nursing	0	1	0	1
	Engineering	5	2	4	2
	Business	2	1	5	0
	<i>Total</i>		<i>18</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>19</i>
2011-2012	Social Sciences	3	1	2	0
	Humanities	4	2	2	0
	Natural Sciences	3	2	3	1
	Nursing	0	0	0	0
	Engineering	9	0	8	0
	Business	0	0	1	0
	<i>Total</i>		<i>19</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>16</i>
2012-2013	Social Sciences	5	3	4	0
	Humanities	4	4	2	0
	Natural Sciences	5	0	6	1
	Nursing	0	0	0	0
	Engineering	1	2	1	1
	Business	0	3	0	0
	<i>Total</i>		<i>15</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
2013-2014	Social Sciences	4	1	3	1
	Humanities	4	1	3	1
	Natural Sciences	6	0	5	0
	Nursing	1	1	0	0
	Engineering	2	1	2	1
	Business	0	1	0	0
	<i>Total</i>		<i>17</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>13</i>
All years	Social Sciences	15	10	12	4
	Humanities	17	10	10	3
	Natural Sciences	17	7	18	4
	Nursing	1	2	0	1
	Engineering	17	5	15	4
	Business	2	5	6	0
	<i>Total</i>		<i>69</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>61</i>

Table 2. Summer Research Fellowship (SRF) and Research Support Grant (RSG) awards and declines by faculty rank over four funding cycles. Data from 2010-2011 omitted because of incomplete records.

Year	Faculty Rank	Number of faculty			
		SRF Awards	SRF Declines	RSG Awards	RSG Declines
2009-2010	Assistant Professor	8	13	7	7
	Associate Professor	7	2	7	1
	Full Professor	3	2	5	2
	<i>Total</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>10</i>
2011-2012	Assistant Professor	13	1	11	0
	Associate Professor	3	3	3	0
	Full Professor	3	1	2	1
	<i>Total</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>1</i>
2012-2013	Assistant Professor	9	7	7	1
	Associate Professor	5	5	5	1
	Full Professor	1	0	1	0
	<i>Total</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>2</i>
2013-2014	Assistant Professor	11	3	6	1
	Associate Professor	4	2	4	1
	Full Professor	2	0	3	1
	<i>Total</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>3</i>
All years	Assistant Professor	41	24	31	9
	Associate Professor	19	12	19	3
	Full Professor	9	3	11	4
	<i>Total</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>16</i>

Table 3. Results of Fisher's Exact Test applied to contingency tables of funding decision (Yes or No) by academic area and by faculty rank.

	SRF	RSG
Funding Decision by Academic Area	$p=0.1922$	$p=0.4610$
Funding Decision by Rank	$p=0.7313$	$p=0.5241$