

DATE: October 23, 2014

TO: Randy Swearer, Provost and Dean of the Faculty

FROM: Jeff Ashley, Chair of University Academic Resources Committee (UARC)

RE: Proposal for "Knowledge Exchange: Sharing Research, Reflective Practice & Creative Work"  
Proposal for Research Associates

CC: Jeff Cromarty, Karen Albert, Evan Laine, and Raju Parakkal

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In its October meeting, the UARC discussed a proposal to create a University-wide program called "*Knowledge Exchange: Sharing Research, Reflective Practice and Creative Work.*" We applaud Professor Raju Parakkal's initiative to propose a forum for faculty, staff and students to share their research, practice-based work, and creative work. We agree that such a program affords productive sharing and networking; may encourage mentoring and modeling; and will encourage an interdisciplinarity that will enrich our campus community of teacher/scholars, teacher/practioners and learners.

We support this proposed program. We recommend that it be initiated initially by the Specter Center Advisory Committee. We encourage that the topics discussed in the forum are not be directly related to Senator's interests, per se; not be restricted to politics, law, public policy or service or the Center's mission of the Center, as written. In short, we recommend this proposal and expect it to be implemented in a cross-University manner for the greater good of all.

This discussion was fertile ground to revisit and discuss the proposal to create Research Advocates in each of the Colleges. We understand that this proposal was presented as a new initiative in last year's budget, but was not funded due to budget constraints.

We recommend that the University pilot the Research Advocates initiative in the spring of 2014-15. The scope of work and the effort is to be decided during that time and recommended to you, the Deans, and UARC. For the pilot period, we request three modest stipends (in lieu of course releases) for the spring semester. Per the selection process for advocates, Deans would solicit Research Advocates from among their faculty and notify me of their selection. The advocates as a group would be a subcommittee of UARC. You and I would task them with a formal charge during this pilot phase.

I would like to include these two proposals in my report to the Faculty in November. I would be pleased to discuss one or both with you between now and then.