Report of the University Structure and Governance Committee on
Charge S-0904: Assessment of Research and Graduate and Professional
Education Committee (RGPEC) Standing Charge

Charge: Review the RGPEC standing charge and evaluate whether an undergraduate research
component should be added. Respond to Senate Executive Committee by January, 2010.

Background: This charge was initiated by a member of the Executive Committee concerned to
clarify that undergraduate research is in fact included in the remit of the Research and Graduate
and Professional Education Committee.

Considerations: The RGPEC Standing Charge currently reads:

This Committee shall have primary responsibility for matters directly related to research,
graduate and professional education, and the students and faculty affiliated with such
programs. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

▪ To provide feedback and input to the Senate on both graduate and professional education,
and on research.
▪ To provide feedback to Rutgers’ central administration on University policies and practices
that affect graduate and professional students.
▪ To evaluate and recommend policies concerning both internal funding for research and the
conditions under which external research funds are solicited, accepted, and administered.
▪ To consider intellectual authorship, copyright, trademark, and patent policies of the
University.
▪ To review the broad educational and research policies of the University related to graduate
and professional instruction, curricula, and advising.
▪ To review educational policies related to times, places, and manners of graduate or
professional instruction, including distance learning and the use of technology.
▪ To review and advise Rutgers’ president on the termination or suspension of graduate and
professional academic programs.
▪ To address, in conjunction with the Faculty and Personnel Affairs Committee, issues that
specifically deal with graduate faculty and research staff.
▪ To address issues related to workplace climate and working conditions in the University as
they concern researchers and graduate and professional students.
▪ To make recommendations to the Senate concerning advice to the central administration
about meetings, forums, and conferences on major issues in educational policy and public
service.
▪ To advise Rutgers’ administrative officers and others, through the Senate, on questions
relating to actual, possible or alleged discrimination as they may affect the researchers and
graduate and professional students and faculty of Rutgers, or Rutgers’ responsibility to the
public.

[Note: The Senior Vice President for Research and Graduate and Professional Education shall be asked to
serve as an ex officio member of this committee.]

After careful consideration, the University Structure and Governance Committee concluded
that although this Standing Charge refers specifically to Graduate and Professional Education, it
refers to Research without limitation of any kind, and that this includes research conducted by
undergraduates, as also by staff and others. It further concluded that the details of the charge
therefore do not need to be amended to add a component for undergraduate research, but that the introduction might usefully be strengthened to clarify this by appending the phrase “and all research programs” to the initial sentence.

**Recommendation:** The University Structure and Governance Committee recommends adoption of the following resolution by Senate:

**Be it resolved that:**

1. The initial sentence of the introduction to the Research and Graduate and Professional Education Committee (RGPEC) Standing Charge be amended by replacing the phrase “students and faculty” with the word “individuals” and adding the phrase “and all research programs” so that it reads: ”This Committee shall have primary responsibility for matters directly related to research, graduate and professional education, and the individuals affiliated with such programs and all research programs.”

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