

Undergraduate Research Advisory Committee  
Faculty Meeting Report  
Nov 20, 2019

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URAC has met twice since the last report.

Based on comments from the last faculty meeting, URAC explored the responsibilities and limits of this very committee, particularly with regard to promoting and advancing research opportunities for our current students. For example, while historically an individual faculty member has mentored students interested in a specific post-bacc granting organization, URAC wonders what the committee's role could or should be in that dynamic. How can URAC support mentors who may feel isolated in their efforts or not institutionally supported? Should these mentors actually be part of URAC? Since its inception, URAC has worked very well with the Associate Provost's office, but is now the time to reach out to the Advancement Office to keep them abreast of URAC's work? Collectively, faculty could and should play a vital in helping students pursue undergraduate research both at IWU and beyond graduation but this type of shift in work requires support. Perhaps together, URAC, the Associate Provost and Advancement can explore possibilities of institutional support for faculty who mentor students preparing for and undertaking research.

Other topics:

- URAC also continues to discuss how we might share success stories with the Communications Office so that our undergraduate research stories move throughout and beyond IWU.
- The committee reviewed summaries submitted by the five 2019 Eckley scholars and is working on brief responses for each awardee.
- URAC hosted the first post-bacc informational meeting on Nov. 14. About 10 students attended. While URAC has not formally met since the event, committee members agreed that it was a successful first effort. Likewise, students in attendance reported that the information was very helpful.
- Last, but not least, URAC continues planning the JWP conference.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Nadeau, chair URAC