

Resolution in Response to Research, Scholarship, & Creative Activity Program Funding Cuts

WHEREAS, A decision has been made by the Chancellor's Office to not fund the Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities Program (RSCA) for 2009/10; and

WHEREAS, RSCA funds have been an important source of small grant funding to support the research, scholarship and creative activities of CSUSM's faculty and, although limited, these funds have been one of the few steady sources of faculty development funds that have provided funding to facilitate small research projects (many of which include student researchers), travel to research sites, travel to conferences to present research findings, and other resources for creative activities; and

WHEREAS, The CSU provosts documented the benefits of the RSCA grant program in an April 2007 report to the Chancellor's Office, noting the value of research and creative activity to student learning and to maintaining a high-quality professoriate; and

WHEREAS, The CSU provosts in the same report recommended continued support from the Chancellor's Office for the RSCA grant program; and

WHEREAS, RSCA grants often allow new faculty, still in the process of making their transition to CSUSM, to get their research programs up and running, which can also set the stage for seeking larger grant funding from outside agencies; and

WHEREAS, RSCA grants have allowed many faculty to spend focused time on their research, which regularly resulted in articles, book chapters, edited volumes, grants proposals, conferences and other scholarly activities, which are necessary to meet the requirements of the reappointment, tenure and promotion (RTP) process; and

WHEREAS, The loss of the RSCA funds disproportionately affects the newer probationary faculty, at a time when their paychecks have already been reduced by 9.3% and their scholarly activities are impacted by furloughs, lack of equipment funds, larger class sizes, and lack of other professional development funds due to extraordinary budget fallouts; and

WHEREAS, Academic Senate recognizes the importance of the RSCA funds in providing critical support for the development of faculty as teacher-scholars; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Academic Senate of California State University San Marcos calls upon the Chancellor's Office to reinstate the funding for the Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the CSUSM Academic Senate calls upon our representatives to the statewide CSU Academic Senate to raise this concern within that body; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the CSUSM Academic Senate will forward copies of this resolution to our faculty, the CSUSM Provost and President, all CSU Academic Senates, the CSU Chancellor, the CSU Executive Vice Chancellors, and the CSU Board of Trustees.