

Kappa Omicron Nu Resolution

Publication of Undergraduate Research

Background

The Undergraduate Research Community (URC) was established in 2000 by human ecology higher education units at Michigan State University, Kansas State University, and University of Maryland-Eastern Shore with Kappa Omicron Nu Leadership Academy as the Sponsor. The mission of URC is a dynamic and pervasive culture of the human sciences for developing the next generation of scholars. In pursuit of this mission, URC has sponsored five Undergraduate Research Conferences in conjunction with the Kappa Omicron Nu Leadership Institute and the electronic *Undergraduate Research Journal for the Human Sciences*. Eight volumes of the Journal have been published. A link to URC can be found at www.kon.org.

Relationship to Kappa Omicron Nu Mission

The mission—empowered leaders through scholarship, research, and leadership development—clearly anticipates programming that will enhance the leadership of members in scholarship and research. Undergraduate research is thus one means of accomplishing the mission, and it has the benefit of also enhancing scholarship and leadership.

Position Statement

The Boyer Commission (1998) concluded that research-based learning must become “. . . the standard for undergraduate education, noting that the ideal undergraduate education would turn the prevailing undergraduate culture of receivers into a culture of inquirers” Therefore students will experience active vs. passive learning, advance career and graduate study options, apply learning to professional issues, prepare for a life-time of learning and a world of change, and enhance self-directed learning skills. Publication of the research completes the experience, provides a capstone to undergraduate education, and opens doors professionally.

Proposed Action

Therefore, be it resolved that KON chapters

- Collaborate with unit administrators and faculty to determine ways to promote undergraduate research;
- Develop a long-term action plan to promote undergraduate research;
- Institute new activities and traditions to promote undergraduate research, evaluate them, and revise to enhance their effectiveness;
- Offer undergraduate publication competitions, and
- Publicize accomplishments and recognize participants.

Financial Impact

Because promotion of undergraduate research is essentially a means of integrating academic and co-curricular goals, many activities will not require funds. Scholarships and grants could be available through targeting campus and national undergraduate research opportunities, alumni dues, and fund-raising activities for that purpose. Alumni members of the chapter may be interested in donating to such a cause.

Time Frame

Chapters are encouraged to develop a long-term plan and yearly action plans to implement the plan.

Reference

The Boyer Commission on Educating Undergraduates. (1998). *Reinventing undergraduate education: Blueprint for America's research universities*. Stony Brook, NY: State University of New York at Stony Brook.