

Dear Senate Council,

Attached is a copy of a support letter from Dr. Tim Tracy, Interim Provost, regarding the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research. This is a national meeting (garners some international students as well), sponsored by the Council on Undergraduate Research (Wash DC) to promote undergraduate research in all disciplines. For the second time since its inception, The University of Kentucky has won the bid to host this meeting on our campus (the first was in 2001 under Phil Kraemer and Lou Swift). The letter provides details of the scope of the meeting.

As you can see from the description, the meeting is being held on **April 3-5, 2014**. We purposefully chose these dates, and decided to hold the meeting ON our campus, instead of the Lexington Convention Center, to show off our campus and our students. To help with this mission, we are asking Senate Council to review our request to **“redirect”** classes on the Thur and Fri of that period (Apr. 3 and 4), so that our students can host and fully participate in the event. The classroom building, and other classrooms, will be needed for oral presentations.

Previous NCUR hosts have used this mechanism with success, e.g. the 2012 hosts, Weber State Univ, Ogden, UT. Obviously, faculty will need to have this information by Spring 2013 to include it in their syllabi for Fall submission.

Professors and instructors can assign students to take part in particular aspects of the conference, and mechanisms can be put in place to ensure students take part. For example, Matthew Deffendahl stated he might ask the students in his communication class to attend a number of related poster and oral presentations, write a blog, summary or essay about what they learned, and post it on Blackboard. Fine arts students might be assigned to stage a flash mob around campus, or do living art, for interaction with students and faculty as they move from event to event. The engineering students might show off their solar car, or other scientific advancements, and so on. Countless volunteers will be needed to assist with campus tours, directions, moderating sessions, etc.

We believe that access to the information that will be presented, as well as to students from other universities and backgrounds, will provide a significant out-of-the-classroom experience for our undergraduates. UK's Strategic Plan supports undergraduate research; NCUR 2014 will be our big chance to show what this really means for our students and others across the country.

Senate Action: We would like the Senate to vote to show their approval for redirecting classes on April 3-5, 2014 for the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research.



August 22, 2012

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To Whom It May Concern:

The **National Conference on Undergraduate Research** (NCUR) was established in 1987 to promote undergraduate research in universities throughout the United States, and has consistently been one of the largest national conferences for promoting undergraduate research, creativity, and scholastic achievement. This 3-day annual event, to be held at **The University of Kentucky on April 3-5, 2014**, will draw between 3,000 and 4,000 students and mentors, representing a wide variety of colleges and universities from across the nation and internationally.

The event consists of a wide variety of activities. First and foremost, students will present their research in the form of interdisciplinary oral and poster sessions, artistic performances, and visual arts exhibits. Additionally, NCUR 2014 will include Plenary talks led by nationally prominent speakers sharing their perspectives on such current topics as: innovation (Kris Kimel, President of the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation, the managing partner for Kentucky Space), entrepreneurship (Pearse Lyons, PhD, *Alltech, Inc.*, one of the world's largest animal health companies), and literature (Nikky Finney, PhD, celebrated author, and professor of English and creative writing at the University of Kentucky). Further, Faculty and Administrators' Network (FAN) sessions will discuss key topics surrounding undergraduate education and research facing faculty and administrators today, such as funding opportunities for undergraduate research efforts, improving teaching through technology, and career development.

It is my pleasure to enthusiastically support the University of Kentucky's efforts to host the 28th National Conference on Undergraduate Research. If you are contacted by the organizers, please participate fully and do your part to ensure the success of this event, which will showcase our campus. I know, with your help, NCUR 2014 participants will experience an outstanding professional program in an exceptional environment.

For more information about NCUR 2014, please contact Co-Chairs Diane M. Snow, PhD (dsnow@uky.edu), and Bessie Guerrant (bguer00@uky.edu).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy S. Tracy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Timothy S. Tracy
Interim Provost

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