

CoE Faculty RSCA Metric & Assigned Time Guidelines: Effective Fall 2024

During the past several academic years, the College of Engineering (CoE) Faculty Research Support Guidelines detailed the requirements for CoE faculty to reduce their teaching load based on research accomplishments (scholarly publications and extramural grants). The University Faculty RSCA Assigned Time Program, introduced in Fall 2018 (henceforth, University RSCA), is intended to achieve a similar objective.

The CoE initiative is now merged with the University RSCA program. This document details the *CoE RSCA Metric Data* used to evaluate applications to the University RSCA and other CoE specific extensions. The metric is essentially identical to that adopted by the CoE during the past several years. All CoE faculty seeking research support release time (henceforth, assigned time) should do so by applying to the University RSCA Program.

I. University Faculty RSCA Assigned Time Program

The University RSCA program provides up to 6 WTU assigned time (two 3 WTU courses release) per academic year. Please refer to the CoE [website](#) for detailed information about the University RSCA program and CoE-specific information.

Conditions for participation in the University Faculty RSCA Assigned Time Program:

1. Maintain a COE RSCA metric point average of 2.0 (1 point per 3 WTU of assigned time)
2. Develop and submit proposals for external funding. (a) Faculty with no current external funding are expected to submit one proposal per year as a Principal Investigator (PI), co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI), or Co-Investigator (Co-I). Faculty are expected to submit a proposal as PI at least once every three years. Proposals must be for amounts greater than \$10,000 and must include a research component. For example, proposals to support engineering education or broader impact activities are appropriate as long as they include research questions and plans for disseminating the results in peer-reviewed venues. (b) Faculty who have received external funding as PI are expected to meet the RSCA deliverables in their proposal. However, they are expected to submit proposals in the final year of their funding, unless their grant awardee conditions specify otherwise.

II. CoE RSCA Metric Point System & Additional CoE Assigned Time

The COE RSCA metric point system evolved over the past several years and is based on refereed research published in quality journals and recognized national/international conference proceedings. It is also based on extramural grants awarded through competitive research proposals to government agencies and the industry, possibly in collaboration with other universities and research institutions.

The CoE adopts a point system as a quantitative metric to assess these achievements. The earned points each year (see below), averaged using a 3-year moving average, define the CoE RSCA metric used to assess yearly progress for an individual faculty member.

Budget permitting, the CoE will provide an additional 3 WTU (one course) release per semester for faculty earning sufficient grant points if the F&A budgeted in the accepted proposal is the full on-campus rate (46.5% this year). Refer to the [link](#) for the algorithm used to calculate the additional CoE release time.

To be considered for the University RSCA and the CoE extensions stated below, a faculty member needs to document in the [CoE online database](#) (off-campus accessible on VPN) from yearly publication and grant achievements. The earned point system detailed below quantifies the CoE RSCA metric.

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A. Earned Points for Refereed Publications

- 1) 1.0 earned point is credited for each published paper in a journal listed in the Journal Citation Report (JCR) of impact factor ≥ 0.8 . See item A.8 below for point allocations for co-authored papers.
- 2) 1.0 earned point is credited for each published paper in a Q1 journal in the Scimago Journal & Country Rank (SCR) [report](#), in fields relevant to the faculty member's RSCA areas. See item A.8 below for point allocations for co-authored papers.
- 3) Publications in credible journals not meeting conditions in 1) and 2) will receive 0.4 point if the paper has gone through an extensive peer review process or 0.2 point if the paper is not peer reviewed. The final published paper and its complete peer review summary should be uploaded to the CoE database.
- 4) Papers published in predatory journals do not earn any credit. The CABELLS database available at the library has a [predatory report](#). Please check the quality of a journal before submitting a manuscript.
- 5) 0.4 earned point for each **peer-reviewed paper** presented at a national or international conference. The paper should have gone through an extensive peer review of the full-paper or paper digest 5 page or longer by two or more reviewers. The full text of the paper should be published in the conference proceedings indexed by a reputable database. The conference should be sponsored by well recognized organization in the discipline. The final paper and its complete peer review summary should be uploaded to the CoE database.
- 6) 0.2 earned point for each paper presented at a national or international conference. The paper should have gone through an abstract review. The full text of the paper should be published in the conference proceedings and the abstract peer review summary should be uploaded to the CoE database. A poster presentation counts as 0.1 earned point. Presentations at regional conferences sponsored by regional chapters of organizations do not qualify.
- 7) In *exceptional cases* where a reviewed conference paper is deemed of sufficiently high value, the faculty may petition the Department Chair to initiate a review and assessment process by a committee of three expert reviewers. The committee may use additional quality metrics (e.g., Google Scholar rankings, number of citations, the fraction of submissions accepted by the journal, the journal reputation in the specific specialization area, and other objective evaluation criteria). The committee report approved by the Chair with a recommendation for an earned point credit between 0.2 and 1 point should be attached to the faculty application. The Department Chair will decide which exceptional cases merit a review. The final decision regarding an allocation of more than 0.2 earned point to a conference paper rests with the AD for Graduate Studies and Research and the Dean in light of the Department recommendation.
- 8) Point credits for conference or journal papers with multiple faculty authors will be given as follows. a) 120% credit given to a faculty, if the faculty is the only author of the paper or the only PI author of the paper, with SJSU students being the remaining co-authors; b) 100% credit given to the first author and the corresponding author of the paper with multiple PI co-authors (both SJSU and non-SJSU). c) 50% credit given to non-first and non-corresponding authors of the paper with multiple PI co-authors (both SJSU and non-SJSU).
- 9) A corresponding author is not just the author who communicates the paper to the editor. He or she is usually the PI of an external grant funding a research team, leads the team, is the primary contributor, coordinates contributions of multiple co-authors, and is responsible for responding to inquiries after the paper is published. The corresponding author is usually listed as the last author of team publications. A corresponding author must be identified as such in the published text of the paper. Being the person who corresponded with the editor is not sufficient justification. Justification should be provided online. Standard point credit will be awarded otherwise.

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B. Earned Points for Externally Funded Research Grants (for Grants Submitted Fall 2023 or Later)

Only competitive research grants/contracts submitted through the College of Engineering and channeled through the SJSU Research Foundation are eligible for grant points. This is partly to ensure that fraction of the Facilities and Administrative allocation (F&A) is channeled back to the CoE to be used to support research. Collaborative research grants/contracts submitted jointly with other SJSU Colleges through the Research Foundation are also eligible provided the CoE is credited for its share of the F&A return.

- 1) 1.0 earned point for every \$50K external research grants per 12 months of funding period. The point credit above requires that the full on-campus Facilities and Administrative (F&A) rate be included in the proposal budget (46.5% this cycle). Should the sponsoring agency not allow recovery of the full F&A rate or for any other reason, the earned points will be scaled down linearly in proportion to the actual F&A rate charged in the budget.
- 2) The point is calculated from the sum of the modified direct cost and its F&A of a research grant. For competitive federally-funded equipment grants, such as NSF MRI, the grant will earn a minimum of 1.0 point if the point from the grant's modified direct cost and F&A is smaller than 1.0.
- 3) If the funding extends over more than 12 months, the amount to invoke in a given reporting cycle is that allocated in the budget for the 12-month period overlapping the cycle year.
- 4) For grants involving multiple investigators, an agreement established upon receiving the award by the Research Foundation should identify the fraction of the total budget credited to each investigator for each 12-month period. The agreement should be uploaded to the CoE online database.

C. Owed Points for CoE Research Support Internal Funding

- 1) "Owed Points" account for publications and grants achievements expected from faculty internally funded by the College through any of its research support initiatives (e.g, Research Professors, Small Group Projects, etc.). The announcements for these initiatives usually state that publications and grants are expected outcomes for the provided monetary support.
- 2) One owed point counts for each \$20,000 provided internal CoE funding. Awarded faculty are informed about the expected number of owed points at the time they accept the internal funding. Owed points *accumulate* if a faculty member continues to successfully receive CoE internal research funding. If you owe points, you are required to complete and submit the owed points form with your assigned time application.
- 3) Owed points are cleared by an equal number of publications and/or grants earned points.

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D. CoE RSCA Metric and Course Release (Assigned Time)

The CoE RSCA metric is a moving average of the sum of earned points from publications and grants computed over a period of 3 years. The averaging period is shorter to start but increases progressively with time to eventually reach 3 years.

- 1) One average earned point for publications or grants is expected for each University RSCA 3 WTU release per semester. This is the maximum assigned time granted based on publication achievements only. An additional average earned **grant point** per semester enables an additional 3 WTU release. This is an extension of the University RSCA program to motivate active pursuit of external research grants. No assigned time is granted based on fractional points.
- 2) As part of the first SJSU RSCA application, and to continue to receive the award the years to follow, faculty need to document each year (usually in March) in the CoE online database their publication and grant achievements. Information about accessing the online database is provided with the request for applications. Faculty also need to include a summary listing of this information as part of a new application or yearly progress report. The summary listing and corresponding claimed earned points constitute the *CoE RSCA metric data* part of an application.
- 3) The CoE RSCA metric data and reported earned points are reviewed by the CoE AD for Graduate Studies and Research and provided to the Dean as one of two main components for evaluating submitted assigned time applications. The second is the Scholarly Agenda (see I-5 above), submitted only with new applications or, for tenured faculty, after completion of the first 5 years of participation in the program. It is reviewed and evaluated by the CoE Research Committee.
- 4) For faculty with owed points at the time of reporting, the difference between the averaged earned points and owed points (define as “*net points*”) constitutes a modified metric based on which assigned time is assessed

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E. Important Limitations

- 1) In this point system, no fractional course release will be given. The maximum research support course release provided through the combined University RSCA and COE RSCA programs is 6 WTU per semester, *subject to availability of funds*.
- 2) If the Department Chair approves, faculty may be able to earn assigned time greater than 6 WTU for performing department or university services or awards from other SJSU programs such as the SJSU Office of Research UGA and other RSCA programs. All faculty members are required to teach at least one course per semester.
- 3) If the combined course release awarded from all sources exceeds 9 WTU a semester, the CoE research support award will be reduced so that the total release (assigned) time is no more than 9 WTU per semester.
- 4) Authored academic textbooks are valuable but do not qualify for earned points under the present CoE RSCA Metric.