



RESEARCH COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

2017

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1. Mission

The mission of the Research Committee (RC) is to promote the research and scientific production of the Department. It is an advisory and instrumental body for the Director and the Department Board on topics related to scientific research.

2. Regulation and members

Regulation of RC can be find in the Annex I.

2017 Composition of the CR is the following:

Chair	Eugenio Scanziani
Vice-chair	Armando Negri
Secretary	Chiara Giudice
Executive Secretary	Chiara Soncini**
Members	Michele Mortarino Daniela Proverbio Federica Riva Daniele Vigo Elisabetta Canali*

* until October 2017

** from October 2017

3. Meetings

Six meetings were hold in 2017, with an average attendance of around 60%.

The dates of the meetings and the related agenda are indicated in Annex II.

4. Activities

The first act of the RC was to elaborate its Regulation, which was approved by the Department Board on 3rd April 2017.

During the year the activities of the RC concentrated mainly on: (i) the quality of the department's research; (ii) assignment of internal funds and (iii) assignment of awards.

4.1 Research Quality

As far as quality is concerned, a procedure was developed to sensitize and to monitor researchers "below threshold" (in terms of scientific productivity, according to Milan University criteria) as well as young researchers, and to follow their improvements. Furthermore, a plan for aligning researcher profiles in various internationally recognized and institutional scientific databases (including Scopus, WoS, ORCID and Archivio Istituzionale della Ricerca-AIR) was prepared and implemented. This operation is a necessary step in order to monitor scientific productivity on a documented basis. Again, with regard to quality, the RC has supported department preparatory work for the compilation of the Official National Annual Report on research (SUA-RD). Finally the RC



commented and discussed the results of the National Research Evaluation Report (VQR 2011-2014).

4.2 *Assignment of internal funds – Linea 2*

In October 2017, the University indicated to the Departments the total amount of the grant assigned to each Department According to the institutional plan “Piano di Sostegno alla Ricerca 2015/17” and the general criteria to follow for its distribution. The RC published an internal call, following the University indications and adding specific requests and elaborated criteria for the evaluation. A Departmental meeting was organized to present the call. RC, supported by the administrative office, managed the applications. RC members worked in sub groups, each of them evaluating specific criteria. Then, during a final meeting, different evaluations were shared and a consensus was reached in order to deliver the final ranking to the Department Board. Since it turned out that a few indications were not clearly specified in the text of the call, in a following meeting the RC discussed possible improvements to be introduced in next year call.

4.3 *Assignment of awards*

The RC launched a competition to pinpoint the “best paper of the year” (2016) published by a Department member. Three categories were proposed, considering different professional age and experience of researchers as well as considering first and/or last name. Following the call listing the rules of participation, mainly based on bibliometric parameters, presence of international co-authors and compliance with the institutional Open Access Policy and DIMEVET research strategies, 32 applications were received. During the June meeting, the RC evaluated the publications and selected the winners that were presented during the July meeting of the Department Board.

4.4 *Other activities*

During 2017 the RC activated an email address and present to the Department Board, guideline for RC communication (from and to). Moreover a shared server (with reserved access) was set for storage and sharing the RC’s documents and minutes. Documents concerning RC composition, mission, and meeting agenda were prepared and published on the Department web site. Finally, support activity was provided to the different EAEVE Committees, when requested, on pertinent arguments.

5. **Achievements**

During 2017 the following achievements were reached:

- The RC contributed, through its work, to the significant improvement of the scientific production of the department.
- At the end of 2017, all researches’ bibliographic ID were aligned (in particular: all researchers acquired an Orchid ID and linked it to Scopus).
- Call “Linea 2” on internal grant were managed and assigned in due time.
- 3 awards for best year publications were assigned.



- An email address for RC communication (from and to) was activated.

6. Future plans

The RC will continue to pursue its mission by taking every action useful for this purpose. In details the RC will:

- promote disclosure and discussion on the strategy to improve department research productivity;
- keep on monitoring department performance, with the help of specific data bases and tools, to assess the department ranking comparing its scientific productivity with Italian and European “gold standard”;
- keep on monitoring on young researchers performances;
- implement an help desk to support researchers in presenting competitive grant applications;
- organize a “Research day”.

7. Annexes

Annex I – Regulation of the RC

Annex II – Meetings days and agenda