Research Conference: Faculty Sponsor Roles and Responsibilities

Faculty Sponsor

A Faculty Sponsor is a faculty member that assists students with all aspects of preparation for the Undergraduate Research Conference. In order to present, students must have a Faculty Sponsor.

Faculty Sponsor Responsibilities:

- Assist students with the research, writing, abstract submission and presentation components of the Undergraduate Research Conference.
- Communicate with students regularly about their projects leading up to the submission of their abstract.
- Remind students that the abstract submission deadline is **February 16, 2018 at 11:59 PM**.
- Review initial abstract submission and mark it "Approved" or "Requires Revision" by **February 23, 2018**.
- Notify students that they have until **February 28, 2018** to re-submit their abstracts if necessary.
- Final date for abstract approval is **March 2, 2018 at 11:59 PM**. Abstracts marked "Requires Revision" will not be included in the conference.
- Attend the conference, if possible, on **Friday, April 27, 2018** at the Lincoln Campus Center, UMass Amherst.

Faculty Sponsor Personalized Online Interface

Faculty Sponsors will receive an automated email once their student has applied online and submitted an abstract for review.

Suggested Guidelines for Abstract Review

1. Abstracts should be in paragraph form and should total approximately 250 words. If the abstract is not of the appropriate length or does not meet the suggested guidelines, please enter revisions and notes in the text box on the online form and ask the student to revise their abstract by selecting “Requires Revision” from the drop-down menu and then clicking on the “Save Changes” button.
2. In your first review of a student’s abstract, please select either the “Approved” or “Requires Revision” status. The “Not Approved” status should only be selected after the student has first submitted a revised version of their abstract. If you select the “Not Approved” status, the student will automatically be notified that
their Faculty Sponsor (you) have not approved their abstract for presentation at the conference.

3. Please be aware that your name will be published as the student’s Faculty Sponsor in the conference abstract booklet. Please review the abstract for all spelling and grammatical errors. There will not be any additional proofing of the abstract outside of your review.

4. In addition to the content of the abstract, please also review the Abstract Title and Area of Study selected by the student for appropriateness. The Area of Study designates the heading under which the abstract will be listed in the abstract booklet. For this reason, the Area of Study may not be the same as the student’s major or concentration.

5. Please be aware a student may submit an abstract even if their research project is not yet complete, however, expected/hypothesized results and conclusions should be discussed in the abstract.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

- Does the abstract exhibit student *mastery* of the subject, *independence*, and *creativity*?

- Does the abstract show *dedication* to scholarly impact and/or public service?

**STRUCTURE**

- Does the abstract clearly state the *purpose* of the project? Is the *rationale* for the project made clear?

- Does the abstract clearly outline research or other *methods used in* the project?

- Does the abstract describe the *results* observed and the *conclusions* drawn from the project?

**STYLE AND PRESENTATION**

- Is the abstract *self‑contained*? When it is read does it stand on its own or does it rely on references to other sources?

- Is the abstract both *concise* and *clear*?

- Are there *unfamiliar abbreviations* and/or *acronyms* in the abstract?

- Is the abstract written in the *third person*? (Abstract writers should use the third person unless use of the first person will avoid cumbersome sentence constructions.)

- If the author included *non‑textual information* in the abstract (i.e., short tables, equations, formulas, diagrams, etc.), does it add to or detract from the abstract?

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