

Report of Research Support Group (for WURA AGM Dec. 3, 2025)

Inaugurated in the fall of 2020 in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, WURA's Research Support Group is now celebrating its 5th birthday. It has a healthy membership of seventeen, about half of whom have reported on-going research (including publications) or creative activity over the past three years. Especially noteworthy achievements in 2025 were Gina Lori Riley's "Night of Movement, Fantasy and Memory" held at the Armouries in May, and Adrian Van Den Hoven's *Analysis of Jean-Paul Sartre's Plays in Theatre complet*, published by Routeledge.

In May, the Research Support Group held its first meeting at Sunset House, highlighting member research. This was a hybrid presentation by Maureen Irish on the topic of her research on the translation of federal statutes. The moderator of the session, Emmanuelle Richez of the Department of Political Science, also briefed the audience on the activities of the Francophonie Group on Campus. In a second in-person presentation in November, Jake Soderlund reviewed his less than successful book project that would have examined various roadblocks to the implementation of a successful "Two-State Solution" to the Israel-Palestine conflict. More presentations of member research are in the planning phase for the winter term. Suggestions for topics and volunteers are needed.

Sad news is that the long-standing \$10,000 per year University support for retiree conference travel to present research was terminated due to budget shortfalls. In its place, a \$3,000 per year grant for the next three years was provided for activities consistent with the University's commitment to the principles of the recently joined *Age Friendly University Global Network*.

Jake Soderlund, Chair