OU’s Graeme Harper elected vice chair at the Council on Undergraduate Research

Oakland University Honors College Dean Graeme Harper has been elected to a three-year term as vice chair at the At-Large Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research.

In this role, Harper will work with At-Large Division Chair Marilyn C. Hart, a professor at Minnesota State University Mankato, to advance research opportunities for students at colleges and universities within the division.

“I am very much looking forward to working on initiatives that develop world-class research experiences for undergraduates and building on the successes we have had here at OU in supporting undergraduate research,” Harper said. “Undergraduate students often have considerable strengths in envisaging possibilities, in producing innovative ideas, and in building future teams of researchers that can tackle major scientific, social and creative problems and come up with wonderful solutions.”

Harper is also leading an At-Large Division Working Group focused on Quality Assurance in Undergraduate Research, and is working with Honors College Faculty Fellow and Professor Robin Michel to coordinate an OU conference on that topic in September.

Conference speakers will come from schools in Michigan and Illinois, where they run successful undergraduate research offices, Harper said. The event will explore topics such as how to establish and support high-quality undergraduate research, how to support diversity in undergraduate research, and how to develop world-class ideas and produce strong outcomes for undergraduates involved in research.

In addition to being elected vice chair, Harper was re-elected to a three-year term as a councilor of the Council on Undergraduate Research.

“Councilors generally represent and advocate for the positive impact of undergraduate research on student success, on the student experience and in terms of the students’ ultimate goals,” Harper explained.

Founded in 1978, the nonprofit Council on Undergraduate Research and its affiliated colleges, universities, and individuals share a focus on providing undergraduate research opportunities for faculty and students at all institutions serving undergraduate students.