

University Research Council
Approved Minutes
February 27, 2017

Present: Eve Adams, Jeffrey Arterburn, Susan Beck, Laura Boucheron, Henry Cathey, Kathryn Hanley, Stephen Hanson, Debra Knapp, Rebecca Palacios, Luis Vazquez

Absent: Martha Desmond, Steven Elias, Sam Fernald, John Harding, Michael Hyman, Fran Nadjat-Haiem, Julie Rice, Stephen Pate, Manoj Shukla

1. Approval of Draft Minutes for October 11, 2016

Minutes for October 11, 2016 were approved as presented.

2. URC Support for Interim Vice President Research Luis Vazquez

Interim Vice President for Research, Dr. Luis Vazquez told URC that he is hoping to streamline processes and has asked the directors for the Office of Grants and Contracts and the Office of Research Development to complete a self-study of their units so he can analyze what the best practices might be. He asked URC to let him know when processes under the VPR control are not working, if they need assistance, or if they see areas that might be improved upon.

3. Clarify URC Award Criteria

The URC Award criteria was reviewed by members and suggestions to help improve the form included:

- Remove the degree dates and consider using words instead such as pre, post, and tenure
- Remove “self-nominations are accepted” from the bulleted portion of the criteria and place it within the statement of what the packets will consist of
- Remove the due date and indicate the Monday following spring break

Chair Hanley will work with the criteria to include the suggestions.

4. URC Award Review Panel – Need Volunteers

URC members volunteering to serve on the review panel included Tom Manz, Rebecca Palacios, Henry Cathey and Chair Hanley will ask Martha Desmond via email.

5. Faculty Senate Memorial Prop 22 (attachment)

The FS Memorial Proposition 22-16/17 was distributed. Chair Hanley said URC’s intent was to say that there are some general practices on campus that do not foster research. She said at this point, the document is not open for edit. Dr. Vazquez suggested that analytics could benefit and support the memorial but that it could be a two-edged sword. The Carnegie classification of R2 research institution was questioned. Dr. Vazquez said the indices have expanded for classification. For instance, NMSU is considered low with post-docs numbers; however, if an institution is low in an area and high in another, it will balance out. Chair Hanley asked that the Carnegie criteria be

provided to URC for the next meeting for further discussion. She also asked members to consider topics to ask Provost Howard should he be able to attend a future meeting that include creative solutions.

6. Open Discussion on Agenda for Spring Semester

It was suggested that a progress report on what Lewis-Burke Associates, the NMSU federal relations firm, has provided the university and how they have enhanced research on campus.

What was learned by the centralization of Arts and Sciences.

Why was URC not consulted when the “signature programs” were determined. Chair Hanley said she would bring this topic to the next CADRe meeting. Dr. Vazquez suggested that URC develop their own signature program ideas.

Invite Human Resources to URC to address the difficulties encountered by researchers when hiring staff.

Invite SPA.