

University Research Council
Approved Minutes
September 2, 2004

Present: Don Birx, Inigo Garcia-Bryce, Sam Fernald, Mike Fisher, Steve Helmreich (CRL), James Herndon, Michael Hites, Stephen Horan, Nirmala Khandan, Jennifer Kreie, Linda Lacey, Ken Martin, Bernard McNamara, Martha Mitchell, Marc Pruyn, Rudi Schoenmackers, Pam Schultz, Rhonda Skaggs, Karl Wood

Absent: Barbara Coppola, Lisa Dalton, Everett Egginton, Wynn Egginton, Enrico Pontelli, Elizabeth Titus

1. Welcome/Introductions

Rudi Schoenmackers, URC Chair for academic year 2004-05, welcomed new and returning council members to the meeting. After introductions were given, Dr. Schoenmackers thanked Steven Horan for his support of URC as the interim Chair for Spring 2004 and Chair for academic year 2002-2003.

2. Minutes

Minutes for April 2, 2004 were approved as presented.

3. Presentation - Linked: Building Connections to Support Innovation U

Ken Martin, College of Business and Economics, offered a presentation on Linked In, a web-based, business-oriented, networking tool. Dr. Martin included information about Flywheel Ventures which is a seed and early-stage venture capital firm focused on technology-based ventures.

4. Research at NMSU – Dr. Donald Birx, Interim Vice Provost for Research

Dr. Birx spoke to council members regarding research at NMSU. As the new Interim Vice Provost, Dr. Birx has a vision/goal of taking research on campus to new heights that would include cross disciplinary collaborative efforts between NMSU colleges, and with other universities, utilizing a “centers of excellence” concept. Dr. Birx suggested focusing on approximately 4 strategic/marketable cluster areas, developing the ability to recapture and reinvest research dollars into research centers, and providing incentives for departments as well as researchers to support the centers. Council members were asked to consider areas that should be included for review as possible matrix to improve research and non-research areas. A subcommittee was formed to assist with this.

5. Goals for the University Research Council

Dr. Schoenmackers has set goals for URC with the first being a challenge to perform a self assessment. This should include the history of URC, where the council is currently, what the

council is, and what the council can and would like to accomplish. Also suggested was a look at successful research universities in our peer group that have doubled their research in the time period that NMSU has remained flat. Dr. Schoenmackers' hope was the assessment to be accomplished by the end of the calendar year or not much later.

Dr. Schoenmackers suggested looking at incentives for faculty to encourage research. He is asking for volunteers to serve on a subcommittee for incentives.

6. URC Research and Creative Activities Fair

The annual URC Research and Creative Activities Fair will take place on October 1, 2004 in conjunction with the AMP conference. Council members were encouraged to ask their departments/faculty/ colleges to participate in the fair by signing up for the poster presentations through the web-site mentioned in the handout provided. The next URC meeting will be an informal meeting at the fair's poster presentation from 1:15-2:45 p.m.

7. Subcommittee Reports

Dr. Nirmala Khandan reported the URC Award for Exceptional Achievements in Creative Scholarly Activity award recipients named in April 2004 would be recognized at the URC Research and Creative Activities Fair/AMP conference luncheon.

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.
Minutes by Frances Schumacher