

University Research Council
Approved Minutes
February 4, 2005

Present: Don Birx , Barbara Coppola, James Cowie, Sam Fernald, Mike Fisher, Inigo Garcia-Bryce, Steve Helmreich, James Herndon, Stephen Horan, Jennifer Kreie, Linda Lacey, Ken Martin, Martha Mitchell, Enrico Pontelli, Marc Pruyn, Rudi Schoenmackers, Rhonda Skaggs, Elizabeth Titus, Karl Wood

Absent: Dana Christman, Lisa Dalton, Wynn Egginton, Everett Egginton, Michael Hites, Nirmala Khandan, Bernard McNamara, Pam Schultz

1. Minutes

Minutes for January 13, 2005 were approved.

2. Conflict of Interest Policy – Stephen Horan

Stephen Horan, who serves on the university committee that is reviewing the Policy Manual's Conflict of Interest Policy, distributed a handout detailing the proposed revisions. He noted that his committee has sought to identify potential conflicts and find a way to manage them so that those who are interested in doing business with the university feel they have been treated fairly and also to apply this not only to research but to other activities as well. He noted that the Faculty Senate, and ADAC had reviewed and approved the proposed changes and they would like the University Research Council to review the policy and flag and change any potential conflicts before it becomes a permanent policy.

Rudi Schoenmackers asked the URC members to review the policy (handout) and provide feedback to Dr. Horan. Also he encouraged the members to discuss the policy with their colleagues.

3. Federal Initiatives

Don Birx gave a brief update on the status of the Federal Initiatives noting that Wynn Egginton was currently working on them. Dr. Birx told URC that there are two books with Book I containing the strategic directions for New Mexico State University. Book II is the traditional book where all the initiatives have been put together and includes the funding requests. Currently there are two initiatives with the State that fall into the Advanced Technology Centers and each request is for \$750,000.

- Natural Resources
- Information Sciences Clusters

4. Committee Reports

URC Subcommittee for Campus-wide Research Management and Infrastructure composed of Jim Cowie, Martha Mitchell, Marc Pruyn, Pam Schultz and Karl Wood. Dr. Cowie distributed and discussed his committee's plan to prepare a draft report to President Martin noting 4 topic areas to be covered:

- Campus wide research management and infrastructure
- Alternative fiscal strategies

- Compliance with A21
- New role for URC

He reported that they plan to create a whitepaper and will try to have a draft by the next URC meeting.

The Subcommittee for Resource Management of Research Assistants composed of Barbara Coppola, Ken Martin and Michael Hites. Barbara Coppola gave the committee report based on the data received from Dean Lacy, Dean of the Graduate School. The following information and data was distributed and discussed:

- Numbers of supported Graduate Students
- Tuition Waiver Program
- GA Benefits
- Conference Travel Awards
- Transporting Awards for Admitted Students
- Graduate Faculty listserv
- Applicant Pool
- Endowments

5. Overhead – Tina Byford

Tina Byford – Controller for the Business Office gave a power point presentation on Facilities and Administrative Rates and what determines the difference. The following highlights from her presentation are noted:

- Facilities & Administrative Rate
- Indirect & Direct Costs
- OMB A-21
- Rates at NMSU
- Rate Ratios
- End of Year
- Cognizant Rate Agency
- Before and After an Audit
- Negotiations & Factors for Negotiations
- Negotiation Changes
- Rate Changes

Dr. Schoenmackers suggested that the remaining committee reports be moved to the next URC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.
Minutes by P. Maria Martinez