

**University Research Council**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**December 2, 2005**

**Present:** Don Birx, Wanda Borges, Sam Fernald, David Finston, Inigo Garcia-Bryce, Nirmala Khandan, Linda Lacey, Marc Pruyn, Rudi Schoenmackers, Elizabeth Titus, David Voelz, Karl Wood

**Absent:** Janice Black, Dana Christman, Shaun Cooper, Jim Cowie, Everett Egginton, Wynn Egginton, Chris Fields, Anne Gallegos, James Herndon, Jennifer Kreie, Pam Schultz, Allen Torell

**Guests:** Vincent Gutschick, Peter Lammers

1. Minutes from URC Meeting held on November 4, 2005 were approved as presented.
2. Biosciences Research Cluster Presentation – Vince Gutschick and Peter Lammers, co-leaders for the Biosciences research cluster, provided a presentation that included information about the nine subclusters under Biosciences, resources available to Biosciences, activities, development philosophy, and the challenges being faced.
3. URC Subcommittees – Marc Pruyn asked members to volunteer for one of the URC subcommittees if they hadn't had the opportunity to do so. URC has the following subcommittees/volunteers:

Research Infrastructure

Wanda Borges, Marc Pruyn, David Voelz

Promotion and Tenure

David Finston, Anne Gallegos, Jennifer Kreie

David Finston provided members with an update on their meeting that took place on November 21<sup>st</sup>. They covered items such as:

- How grant writing and external funding are perceived and funded in each college
- Are training grants and research grants given the same status in P&T decisions
- Is training Ph.D. students considered teaching or research
- Are there uniform standards among colleges on the procedure for submission of P&T documents
- How is “research” defined in each college and what activities are given credit under that category of performance
- Is the University beginning a revision of its P&T policy? If so, who is responsible and what is the process for input

Incentives/Disincentives

Janice Black, Dana Christmas, Inigo Garcia-Bryce, Pam Schultz

Election

This subcommittee has not organized as yet. Past Chair Rudi Schoenmackers suggested they meet in February and reminded members that if they serve on this subcommittee they cannot be nominated to the Executive Committee.

### Awards

Sam Fernald, Nirmala Khandan, Allen Torell

The URC award for creative scholarly activity is announced in late January or early February. The announcement will be sent to the subcommittee members in early January so that they may determine if any changes need to be made prior to its being distributed campus-wide.

4. Indirect Cost Recovery Report – Marc Pruyn shared copies of the report for members to review. Rudi Schoenmackers told members that the report gives an idea of the magnitude of research each unit is doing and a snapshot of where the university is. He suggested the year-end report would be the best report to distribute to members. Interim Vice President Don Birx discussed research funding and noted that each research cluster received \$75,000. He said President Martin provided \$500k out of his discretionary funds for support and that the President will be asking the State for one-time funding to support the research clusters.
5. Vice President for Research Search Update – Marc Pruyn told members that search committee had narrowed down the candidate list and that most references had been called. He said the search committee will start the telephone interview process and the hope is to have on-campus interviews by January.

### 6. Other

Graduate Research Assistantships (GRA) – Dean Linda Lacey would like to invite the cluster GRAs to future URC meetings to observe the Research Cluster presentations being given at the start of every meeting. She felt that this would help them have a better understanding of interdisciplinary research on campus. She also mentioned her concern for their health insurance and that she has a meeting scheduled with V.P. McDonough to discuss tuition waivers for the GRAs.

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.  
Minutes by Frances Schumacher