

University Research Council
Approved Minutes
February 10, 2006

Present: Ida Baca (E. Egginton), Jim Cowie, Sam Fernald, Chris Fields, Anne Gallegos, Inigo Garcia-Bryce, James Herndon, Jennifer Kreie, Linda Lacey, Rudi Schoenmackers, Pam Schultz, Elizabeth Titus, Allen Torell, David Voelz, Karl Wood

Absent: Don Birx, Janice Black, Wanda Borges, Dana Christman, Shaun Cooper, Wynn Egginton, David Finston, Nirmala Khandan, Marc Pruyn

Guests: Research Graduate Assistants – Sasha King, Subramanian Murugan, Lejla Porobic, Sathiskumar Sittampalam, Kristin Swaim

1. Call to Order – Karl Wood chaired the meeting in Marc Pruyn's absence.
2. Minutes from URC Meeting held on December 2, 2005 were approved as presented.
3. Natural Resource Sustainability and Renewal Research Cluster Presentation

Karl Wood gave URC a presentation on the Natural Resource Research Cluster with emphasis on the Water Subcluster. He mentioned that President Martin is setting up a partnership with General Electric that will involve the cluster. This cluster has also hired a technical writer for proposal preparation that will support the Energy, Land, and Water Subclusters.

Rudi Schoenmackers provided members with an update on the Energy Subcluster. He said the Federal Initiatives included requests for funding to support research on the electric power grid, solar cells, wind energy, and bio-products for fuels. He mentioned NMSU's State Initiatives including requests for \$200K per cluster for seed money.

4. Report from Chair

Marc Pruyn asked Karl Wood to let members know that he has received names for the URC members from Faculty Senate and PSL who should have members on this council.

5. V.P. Research Search Update

Rudi Schoenmackers told URC that if they have had the opportunity to attend the open sessions for the candidates that they should provide their comments as soon as possible. The search committee will be narrowing down the search to two candidates who will return to campus in the near future.

6. URC Subcommittees

Research Infrastructure – This subcommittee will meet prior to the URC meeting in March and provide an update at that time.

Promotion and Tenure – Anne Gallegos told members that there was some concern about P&T changing next year and that this subcommittee has invited the Faculty Senate P&T Revision individuals (Tracy Sterling and Donna Alden) to attend the March 3rd meeting. Initial concerns remain as follows:

- 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 – This subcommittee will meet prior to the URC meeting in March and provide an update at that time.

Awards – It was agreed that the criteria for the URC Award for Exceptional Achievements in Creative Scholarly Activity should be distributed via abcd-distribution as soon as possible to allow enough time to get responses back by the March 10th deadline.

Election – James Herndon and Ida Baca (for Everett Egginton) have volunteered for this subcommittee.

7. New Business

NMSU Employment Background Review Policy – James Herndon opened the discussion and provided a copy of the draft policy. Concerns were mentioned and it was agreed that Human Resource Director, Diana Quintana, should be invited to the next URC meeting so that a knowledgeable information source could be available for questions.

The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.
Minutes by Frances Schumacher