

**University Research Council
Approved Minutes
September 8, 2006**

Present: Vimal Chaitanya, Janice Black, David Boje, James Cowie, Alexander Fernald, Marc Pruyn, William Stein, Allen Torell, David Voelz, Karl Wood

Absent: Prentice Baptiste, Wanda Borges, Shaun Cooper, Everett Egginton, David Finston, Anne Gallegos, Inigo Garcia-Bryce, Linda Lacey, Elizabeth Titus

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Karl Wood welcomed members to the new academic year of meetings with the University Research Council (URC). New and returning members introduced themselves and everyone welcomed Vice President Vimal Chaitanya.

2. NMSU Research Vision – Vice President Vimal Chaitanya

Dr. Chaitanya told members he wanted URC to become more involved and engaged in research on campus and working with the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR). He said he will provide an outline at a later meeting of his idea on the direction URC should take. Dr. Chaitanya provided the presentation he gave to the Board of Regents earlier on this date. He mentioned research expenditures for the FY 2006 had increased by 7.94% which is quite a significant increase. The presentation will be available on the VPR website in the near future.

Dr. Chaitanya told members that good graduate students are the conduit for research. A focus he has this year in working with Deans Lacey (Graduate School) and Egginton (International Programs) is to recruit students with good scholastic backgrounds from good universities both nationally and internationally. He told members that he would create research assistantship grants that will be funded internally to help with this focus.

Improving relations with Sandia National Labs and Los Alamos National Labs is also a high priority along with the New Mexico research universities. He mentioned collaborations with these groups and other universities as essential for future growth.

3. Approval of Minutes for April 7, 2006

Minutes for URC meeting held on April 7, 2006 were approved as presented.

4. URC Fair and Call for Posters

The URC Fair and call for posters announcement was sent out via abcd-distribution on August 24, 2006, earlier in the semester than the previous year in hopes of having a higher

number of registrants. Chair Karl Wood told members that the next URC meeting would be held informally at the Fair in lieu of a regular meeting.

5. Appointment on Executive Committee for Faculty Representative

It was mentioned that the URC needs a Faculty Senate representative to be on the Executive Committee. Frances Schumacher will contact Laurence Creider, Chair of Faculty Senate, to have an appointment made prior to the next meeting.

6. Other

Vimal Chaitanya asked members their thoughts on including the Cluster Leaders in the URC. Chair Elect Sam Fernald suggested that the Faculty Senate would probably need to approve such a structure change.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:38 p.m.
Minutes by Frances Schumacher