

University Research Council
Approved Minutes
November 3, 2006

Present: Janice Black, David Boje, Wanda Borges, Kip Coggins, Alexander Fernald, Abbas Ghassemi, Maria Luisa Gonzalez, Michele Nishiguchi, Elizabeth Titus, Patricia Wojahn

Absent: Vimal Chaitanya, Prentice Baptiste, James Botsford, Shaun Cooper, James Cowie, Everett Egginton, Wynn Egginton, Inigo Garcia-Bryce, Nirmala Khandan, Linda Lacey, Marc Pruyn, William Stein, Steve Thomas, Allen Torell, David Voelz, Karl Wood

1. Minutes from the meeting held on September 8th will be voted on at the December meeting.
2. URC Fair and Poster Presentations

The URC Poster Presentations' brochure and photographs of some of the presenters were passed around for members to see. This year Vice President Vimal Chaitanya provided funds for the faculty posters to be judged with a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prize. Drs. Wanda Borges, Patricia Wojahn, and URC Chair Karl Wood acted as judges. The results were: 1st Place to presenter Sri Harika Valluri for Shuguang Deng's "Direct Contact Membrane Distillation for Brackish Water Desalination: Comparison of Flat Sheet Membrane Modules;" 2nd Place to Tracy Sterling for "NSF ADVANCE: Transformation to Increase Faculty Diversity;" and 3rd Place to Cheryl Coker for Visual Search Behavior During Observational Learning." There were 42 registrants for posters which were down slightly from last year's 52 presenters. Vice President Chaitanya introduced the URC Award recipients at the luncheon for the Alliance for Minority Participation (AMP) students and faculty who attended.

3. Opportunities Announced by Vice President for Research

V.P. Chaitanya has created three new opportunities which include:

- Interdisciplinary Research Grants (IRG)
- Undergraduate Research Initiative Grant (URIG)
- Graduate Research Enhancement Grant (GREG)

URC members were provided the announcements and forms for use in submitting proposals for these opportunities. Dean Elizabeth Titus suggested that the URC could have worked on the announcements prior to their being distributed. Questions arose regarding these opportunities to which Frances Schumacher responded that answers would be forthcoming. Abbas Ghassemi wanted to commend V.P. Chaitanya for creating these opportunities.

4. Federal Initiatives Update

Chair Elect, Sam Fernald, updated members on the Federal Initiative process. In an earlier announcement, Vice President Vimal Chaitanya asked those who wanted to submit a new strategic initiative to provide a presentation to which there were 21 responses. In keeping with Dr. Chaitanya's wish to involve the URC in more NMSU research processes, the review panel was made up of URC Chair Karl Wood, URC Chair Elect Sam Fernald, VPR Vimal Chaitanya, Assoc. V.P. Wynn Egginton, Campus Coordinator of Governmental Relations Ricardo Rel, Science Advisor William Gutman, and via teleconference - NMSU lobbyist Lewis-Burke's Carole McGuire.

President Martin has requested that we narrow down the requested strategic initiatives to around 5 or 6 instead of the multiple requests made annually in hopes of receiving larger earmarks. Of the 21 presented initiative requests, 9 have been selected to be put in the strategic initiatives. The FY2008 requests will be in one book with 3 tabs which include strategic initiatives, ongoing programs, and supported programs. Members asked to have Ricardo Rel provide an update at the next meeting.

5. New Location for Future URC Meetings

All future URC meetings will be held in Anderson Hall's large conference room instead of Zuhl Library's Associate's Room.

6. URC Subcommittees

Sam Fernald read the mission of the URC to members and asked for their thoughts on this year's subcommittees and/or suggestions of areas of interest for future meetings. Dean Titus mentioned the need for the Award Committee and also suggested that a committee be formed that will study researcher's concerns and ways to facilitate their research. She said that members should consider ways to energize the council. Kip Coggins suggested that new faculty should be notified of where/how to use the office of Grants and Contracts to encourage them in that area. A recommendation followed to get large grant recipients to provide their knowledge on how they received their grants.

Dean Titus would like to see how research is funded on this campus and mentioned that it is still an open question. She asked that URC invite Jennifer Taylor to visit a future meeting and that an email go out to members asking them to provide their questions specifically for Jennifer Taylor. Dean Titus also told URC that the Faculty Senate's promotion and tenure study group should be rolling out the results of their study which will be of interest.

It was suggested that the subcommittees should be allowed to invite faculty not on the council to participate in the subcommittees to get outside faculty interested in the URC and to also get broader opinion and assistance.

7. Other

Taping URC Meetings – Luisa Gonzalez was concerned that the URC meeting was being taped. She said that members should be told of this in advance of the meeting. Frances Schumacher told Dr. Gonzalez that any member is always welcome to ask her to turn the recorder off if they would like to say something “off the record.” Ms. Schumacher also mentioned that the URC meetings have been taped for 4 years that she was aware of and that they were specifically used in composing minutes. Dean Titus suggested that an email be sent out from the Vice President for Research office letting URC members know that the meetings will be taped and getting a response from all members that they have received the information.

List of Publications – Janice Black asked members if they were aware of a list of publications. Dean Titus said that should a list be developed that it should be inclusive of the library, branches and other units; and should be provided to Karl Hill at University Communications and not just the research deans as that would only include their college.

Mission, Vision, and Goals of URC – Abbas Ghassemi suggested the mission, vision, and goals of URC be a focus for the next meeting and that the results of this be distributed campus-wide so as to entice faculty to want to be on the council.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:27 p.m.
Minutes by Frances Schumacher