

University Research Council
Approved Minutes
August 31, 2007

Present: Vimal Chaitanya, Brenda Benefit, Kip Coggins, Alexander “Sam” Fernald, Abbas Ghassemi, Meghan Starbuck, William Stein, Steve Thomas, David Voelz, Patricia Wojahn, Karl Wood, Michael Young

Absent: Prentice Baptiste, David Boje, Shaun Cooper, Everett Egginton, Nirmala Khandan, Linda Lacey, Michele Nishiguchi, Azadeh Osanloo, Elizabeth Titus, April Ulery

1. Introductions

Introductions were made and members were welcomed back to a new academic year of meetings.

2. Minutes

Minutes from the meeting held on May 4, 2007 were approved as presented.

3. Past Activities and Future Goals

Chair Sam Fernald gave members a brief update on some past URC activities which included coming up with a consulting policy for the university, a policy for intellectual property rights, and some studies of overhead distribution. Dr. Fernald told members that he felt the URC can draw on resources across campus to address research issues. He said that the mission statement is being revised and that for the coming year the council will be hearing from Vice President Vimal Chaitanya on his ideas to promote research on campus with the URC providing recommendations and feedback to him. Dr. Fernald asked members for their thoughts and/or suggestions.

Past Chair Karl Wood brought up President Martin’s address at the convocation and how he had provided 10 points for building research on campus which included:

- Continue to develop the 5 clusters
- Fully recognize the interdependence of research growth and enrollment growth
- Increase our true IDC (F and A) recovery
- Focus attention on research output
- Move away from heavy reliance on earmark funding
- More aggressively seek intellectual property income
- Forge and foster new partnerships
- Fund more endowed chair and professorships
- Improve facilities
- Utilize merit pay

Dr. Fernald suggested that these points could be used as talking points for URC at future meetings. He also asked members to review a new draft charter for URC. He asked that members provide feedback before the next meeting.

4. Vice President for Research Update

Vimal Chaitanya gave members an update on research which included a brief comparison with UNM and NM Tech. UNM's expenditures were at \$179M with half being medical school. This would bring their estimated expenditures to approximately \$90M. NM Tech (according to their numbers) is at \$120M and NMSU is at \$154M (figures provided by Business and Finance). NSF shows NMSU at \$135M and ranked at 32nd in the nation in external funding. NSF has NMSU's Engineering college ranked at 22nd in the nation. Dr. Chaitanya has been visiting college department heads meetings to give a presentation on rankings. He offered to provide the presentation at the next URC meeting.

Dr. Chaitanya told members that President Martin is interested in pushing the cluster idea further. Dr. Chaitanya feels the clusters need structure with the cluster chair receiving a stipend and reporting to the VPR with evaluations on record. He also feels the cluster chair should probably not be an associate dean, department head, or director so that they have time to devote energy to the cluster.

The Institute for Applied Biosciences, originally Bioscience cluster, is in the process of hiring two new faculty by January who will be on a separate line. They will have a lower teaching load with a primary job function of research. Hopefully within the next five years, two or three clusters will become an institute. This goal may be modified with the URC assisting in the planning. With URC having representation from all the colleges, this group will assist with shaping the cluster vision. Funding will hopefully come from external sources and if that isn't available then Federal, State, or internal funding to support the clusters until they start generating their own resources.

Dr. Chaitanya will provide a sample of the database that has been created by the Office of Strategic Initiatives within the VPR office that lists faculty expertise which will support collaborative efforts. He also intends to invite the Director for Strategic Initiatives to the next URC meeting so that she can provide members with a list of services that her office provides along with contact information.

5. URC Fair

The URC fair will take place on Friday, October 5th at 1:15 to 2:45 p.m. in Corbett Center in the second floor lobby. The call for posters was provided as a handout and members were encouraged to provide that information to their colleges. Members were asked to volunteer to judge the posters for the poster competition. Patty Wojahn, Kip Coggins, Karl Wood, Meghan Starbuck and Azadeh Osanloo volunteered.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:28 p.m.
Minutes by Frances Schumacher

