

**University Research Council**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**January 25, 2008**

**Present:** Vimal Chaitanya, David Boje, Kip Coggins, Michele Nishiguchi, Meghan Starbuck, William Stein, Steve Thomas, Myriam Torres, David Voelz, Patricia Wojahn, Karl Wood, Michael Young

**Absent:** Prentice Baptiste, Brenda Benefit, Shaun Cooper, Everett Egginton, Abbas Ghassemi, Nirmala Khandan, Linda Lacey, Azadeh Osanloo, Elizabeth Titus, April Ulery

1. Minutes for December 7, 2007 were approved.

The minutes were reviewed and Michael Young had a question regarding item #5 “Research Grant Management and IDC Mechanisms Training Subcommittee.” It was agreed that the tape used in recording minutes would be reviewed for clarification and the minutes would be resubmitted for approval at the next meeting.

2. URC Charter

Chair Karl Wood provided members with an update on the URC draft charter. NMSU legal counsel Bruce Kite said the charter would need to go before Faculty Senate and possibly the Academic Deans Council. Myriam Torres, URC Faculty Senate representative, said that it would have to go before the Committee of Committees within Faculty Senate for approval. This committee is scheduled to meet on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

3. URC Award Criteria

The criteria for the URC Award for Creative Scholarly Activity will be sent out to the all-faculty list-serve the first week of February and have a deadline of March 14, 2008 for packets to be in the VPRGI office. Due to a restriction on number of packets allowed per college, the packets should be submitted through the Deans’ offices for review. The winners (two early career and two distinguished career) will receive \$2000 at the Fall Convocation. The award subcommittee will be selected at the next URC meeting.

4. Federal Initiatives Update

Vice President Vimal Chaitanya told members that the Federal Initiatives book is being printed and would be presented to the congressional delegation on January 31<sup>st</sup>. He will try to emphasize certain initiatives with certain legislators to try to interest them in particular programs. He reminded members that faculty/staff are welcome to visit with the congressional delegation as long as they clear the visit through Ricardo Rel, NMSU’s government relations director; and Lewis-Burke Associates, NMSU’s government relations firm.

In prior years the earmarks were not tracked which Dr. Chaitanya is now tracking to help view the continuing resolutions and how they might be affecting NMSU.

5. NMSU Federal Relations Firm – Lewis-Burke Associates LLC to Visit Campus

Donna Dean will be on campus on February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> to provide both an open session and one-on-one meetings for faculty/staff interested in National Institute of Health (NIH) funding and

opportunities. Dr. Dean has extensive knowledge of the NIH having 27 years experience at NIH and the Food and Drug Administration. Anyone interested in attending should contact Renate Bone at [rbone@nmsu.edu](mailto:rbone@nmsu.edu).

Dr. Chaitanya told members that Lewis-Burke can ease the process of anyone with competitive funding as well. He said that the more Lewis-Burke knows about faculty/staff research on campus, the better they can serve NMSU.

## 6. URC Contribution to Social Science Research, Its Recognition and Funding

David Boje provided a handout to members that had items of for discussion and consideration which included:

- Is the URC supposed to represent the interests of all segments of the research community? Recommendations: establishing URC small grants (\$2 - 5,000 awards) to support scientific, scholarly or artistic efforts of faculty, and/or publication grants to help pay costs of publishing scientific, scholarly or artistic work.

A motion was made by David Boje to use small grants for arts, social sciences, and humanities to provide equipment/supplies that will assist the URC with a reputation as a research council that supports research and creative scholarly activity. Patricia Wojahn seconded the motion and discussion ensued.

Dr. Chaitanya told members that he does not want campus to have the impression that the VPRGI office does not support social sciences. He spoke about the Graduate Research Enhancement Grant (GREG) as an example with 20 applications coming in and only five being funded of which none were for soft sciences. Dr. Chaitanya said he would make the IRG funds of which the awards are a minimum \$25,000 and a maximum of \$50,000 available to a separate program that will address the soft sciences.

A vote was taken on the above motion and it passed unanimously.

- University Research Council Website needs updating. The site that Dr. Boje visited had minutes for meetings from September 26, 2003 and back. The site does not have a list of current members and no contact information for the URC Chair. He suggested a link to the URC site from the NMSU research site would be very helpful. Dr. Chaitanya said he would have the VPRGI web person update the site.

## 7. Other

Millionaire Reception – A reception was held at the Stan Fulton Center to recognize faculty members/staff who have brought in over a million dollars in funding to NMSU for FY06-07. President Martin, Mrs. Martin, and Vice President Chaitanya hosted the event.

Congratulations to David Voelz for the Paul W. and Valerie Klipsch Professorship.