

University Research Council
Approved Minutes
September 17, 2008

Present: Vimal Chaitanya, Sam Fernald, Abbas Ghassemi, Linda Lacey, Kevin Melendrez, John Mexal, Michele Nishiguchi, Azadeh Osanloo, Igor Sevostianov, Meghan Starbuck, April Ulery, Patricia Wojahn, Karl Wood, Michael Young

1. Minutes for March 28, 2008 and April 25, 2008 will be provided at a future meeting.
2. Welcome, Introductions and Opening Remarks

Introductions were made and Vice President Vimal Chaitanya welcomed returning and new members. He provided some FY07 statistics on research awards and expenditures. Awards have increased 9% from last year and as of June 30, 2008 were at \$165,920,817 including all campus, PSL and satellite campuses. Research expenditures are down 8% going from \$153,734,895 in June 2007 to \$141,806,407 in June 2008. The expenditures fell due to the awards being down last year.

3. Selection of URC Chair

Abbas Ghassemi was elected as Chair for URC last spring. Drs. Ghassemi, Chaitanya, and Past Chair Karl Wood decided that a new vote should be taken for the URC Chair position as Dr. Ghassemi is highly involved with the Institute for Energy and the Environment. Dr. Ghassemi said in view of the new mission, vision and goals, that URC needed a Chair that could put forth a major effort. Past Chair Karl Wood told members that with this request, the executive committee would like to nominate Sam Fernald especially since he was not able to complete an academic year (last year) as Chair having left on sabbatical. Dr. Wood opened the floor to other nominees. Michele Nishiguchi made the motion to elect Dr. Fernald and Dr. Ghassemi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. URC Future Meeting Dates

In moving the URC meetings from Friday's as with last year, members were asked whether Wednesdays or Thursdays were better. It was decided to send out an email to URC and offer different days and times to get the majority. It was also suggested that alternating days of the week would help in getting all members to meetings for at least some occasions. The secretary of record will provide this to members as soon as possible to set up the Fall Semester's meeting schedule.

5. URC Fair & Volunteer Poster Judges

URC members were reminded that the fair is to be held on October 3, 2008 at 1:15 p.m. Volunteer judges were requested to judge the faculty posters. Patti Wojahn, Karl Wood, and Kevin Melendrez volunteered. First place will be \$200, second place \$150, and third place \$100.

6. Joint Meeting with Graduate Council and URC

Dean Linda Lacey told URC that Interim President Cruzado was interested in the Graduate Council and URC having a joint meeting to identify activities to promote research at NMSU. A date needs to be identified for a luncheon. Sam Fernald agreed to attend an Executive Graduate Council meeting with Chris Brown to work out details.

7. URC Charter Update

A portion of the Faculty Senate meeting minutes from April 3, 2008 was provided to URC. It was pointed out that the proposition "17-070/08 Amended A Memorial to Modify the University Research Council (URC) Charter" was tabled until next year. Some suggestions were made on ways to get the charter approved which included:

- Visiting with Faculty Senate members individually prior to the vote to answer any questions they may have
- Edit the charter to accommodate some of the Faculty Senate's suggestions, if appropriate, and resubmit
- Providing more information on clusters as this seemed an area of concern

8. Federal Initiatives

Guidelines for the Federal Initiatives were provided to URC with a reminder that submissions for new initiatives are due on September 29, 2008. Presentations of the initiatives submitted will be presented to a review panel made up of the URC Chair, Lewis-Burke's Carole McGuire, Ricardo Rel, Vimal Chaitanya, a science advisor, and four Associate Research Deans, taking place on October 7-9, 2008.

Minutes by Frances Schumacher