

University Research Council
Approved Minutes
November 12, 2008

Present: Vimal Chaitanya, Sam Fernald, Abbas Ghassemi, Steve Leask (Shaun Cooper), Kevin Melendrez, Azadeh Osanloo, Meghan Starbuck, Myriam Torres, April Ulery, Enedina Vazquez, Patricia Wojahn, Karl Wood

Absent: Everett Egginton, Mohammed Hussain, Linda Lacey, John Mexal, Rachel Navarro, Michele Nishiguchi, Igor Sevostianov, Elizabeth Titus, David Voelz, Michael Young

1. Minutes for October 16, 2008 were approved as presented.
2. Vice President for Research's Office of Strategic Initiatives – Sudha Murthy

The Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI) was established July 2007 with Sudha Murthy as Director. On a daily basis, OSI looks for funding opportunities for faculty at NMSU and sends out announcements utilizing the NMSU Grid which can be assessed at the following site: <http://grid.research.nmsu.edu/login.php> . Faculty and staff are encouraged to register at the site which may be used as a collaborative tool to locate faculty with certain areas of expertise and also to receive funding opportunities. Ms. Murthy provided a brochure that provided information on OSI's capabilities which includes staff that can support proposal planning and preparation, technical writing, visuals, and many others. Ms. Murthy's office can be reached at 646-9209 or at osi@research.nmsu.edu .

3. Vice President for Research Presentation: Research Accomplishments – Vimal Chaitanya

Vimal Chaitanya was asked to give this presentation at the meeting being held in December so that more URC members could attend. Dr. Chaitanya agreed to this but went ahead to the slide that provided statistics on expenditures and awards as he has concern over the downslide. Expenditures are down by 8% with PSL falling to almost the 2004 average. The College of Ag is consistently moving up. This slide will be discussed again at the next meeting when the full presentation is given.

4. Small Research Grant Program – Patricia Wojahn

Patti Wojahn told URC that last year David Boje, a past council member, had asked for a grant program for the arts and soft sciences. Dr. Wojahn was asked to create a call for proposals during the last academic year and she provided a draft copy of this at the meeting. The original thought was a \$1,500 grant; however Dr. Chaitanya suggested that \$3,000 to \$5,000 would provide more support. A suggestion was made to write the call for proposal to encourage the purchasing of items such as transcription services, workshops, or having guest speakers/lectures. Another suggestion was to target junior faculty. Dr. Wojahn was asked to revise the call for proposals and include some of the suggestions made. Meghan Starbuck

said we should be more encouraging to faculty in soft sciences so they get involved with collaborative opportunities that arise and that they should take advantage of the NMSU Grid.

5. Grant Proposal Submission Procedures – Sam Fernald

Sam Fernald would like the URC to work with the VPR office to get procedure guidelines for submitting grant proposals. Dr. Fernald said that a \$400K grant was returned because of proprietary issues. With the research centers becoming centralized, he felt this is a good time to create a procedure/protocol set of guidelines. It was requested that the topic of centralization be added to December's meeting agenda.

6. Federal Initiatives and the Limited Number Going Forward – Karl Wood

Karl Wood told URC that in the past; almost every request by faculty members for Federal Initiatives was put in the book. He wanted URC to look into this issue as now it seems that few are put forward. Dr. Chaitanya provided the process to URC which includes an announcement going out to the all faculty list-serve with a deadline for submission usually falling six to eight weeks later. NMSU's federal relations firm, Lewis-Burke and Associates, sends a representative down to serve on a review panel made up of college research deans, a science advisor, the VPR and Ricardo Rel, Assistant Vice President for Research and Government Relations. New requests are presented to the panel who then determines whether the program has a chance of being funded. With current federal cutbacks, Dr. Chaitanya said it is necessary to keep the book slimmed down. It was requested to have Ricardo Rel come to a future URC meeting to give details on the process. Dr. Wood withdrew his request for URC to review the process.

Minutes by Frances Schumacher