

**University Research Council**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**January 16, 2009**

**Present:** Sam Fernald, Brenda Benefit, Mohammed Hussain, Kevin Melendrez, John Mexal, Igor Sevostianov, Meghan Starbuck, Roseann Thompson (Abbas Ghassemi), Myriam Torres, April Ulery, Patricia Wojahn, Michael Young

**Absent:** Vimal Chaitanya, Everett Egginton, Linda Lacey, Steve Leask, Rachel Navarro, Michele Nishiguchi, Azadeh Osanloo, Elizabeth Titus, Enedina Vazquez, David Voelz, Karl Wood

1. Minutes from December 11, 2008 meeting were not available and will be reviewed at the next meeting.
2. VPR Road Show – Sam Fernald

Chair Fernald told URC that he felt there is some misunderstanding among faculty with regard to what the VPR office offers and their support of research. He suggested that a “VPR Road Show” would assist with the dissemination of information and also be an opportunity for faculty members to reach out with questions or concerns. He asked for volunteers that would represent each college and PSL to form a committee to come up with specifics. Volunteers include: PSL, Enedina Vazquez (selected); HSS, Mohammed Hussain; BUS, Meghan Starbuck; ACES, Sam Fernald; ENGR, Igor Sevostianov; EDU, Azadeh Osanloo (selected); A&S, Patty Wojahn & Brenda Benefit. This committee will meet separately in the next week or two as the VPR Road Show will be provided at the colleges over this spring semester.

3. Training for IRG Grant Proposal Writing – Sam Fernald

Chair Fernald suggested that a training/workshop session be created to support faculty members who want to write proposals for funding opportunities such as the Interdisciplinary Research Grants (IRG). He served recently on their review panel as the URC Chair and found that some of the proposals did not follow the criteria and so could not be considered for award, even though they might have innovative ideas. Meghan Starbuck also served on the panel for the College of Business and agreed that training would be good. After discussion, it was requested that the VPR’s Office of Strategic Initiatives attend the next meeting to describe the IRG review process.

4. URC Charter

It was agreed that the URC Charter needs editing so that the language is more broad or flexible. This would allow for future changes such as if the clusters should not develop as

originally planned. It was mentioned that the “Living the Vision” document does not mention clusters. Another suggestion was to use inclusive language so the charter isn’t contentious and would therefore have a better chance of being approved by Faculty Senate.

#### 5. URC Meeting Dates/Times

For the spring semester, URC will meet on the third Friday of every month through April starting at 3:00 p.m. All meetings will be in the Anderson Hall Large Conference Room with the exception of February’s meeting which will be in the Anderson Hall Blue Conference Room.

Minutes by Frances Schumacher