

University Research Council
Approved Minutes
March 20, 2009

Present: Vimal Chaitanya, Sam Fernald, Michele Nishiguchi, Brian Ormand (Shaun Cooper), Igor Sevostianov, Meghan Starbuck, Myriam Torres, Enedina Vazquez, Patricia Wojahn, Karl Wood, Michael Young

Absent: Brenda Benefit, Everett Egginton, Mohammed Hussain, Linda Lacey, Kevin Melendrez, John Mexal, Rachel Navarro, Azadeh Osanloo, Elizabeth Titus

1. Minutes from February 20, 2009 will be distributed in the near future.
2. Form Nomination Committee

A nomination committee was formed to assist with nominating the next URC Chair. This committee is charged with the task of preparing a slate of URC members willing to serve on the next year's Executive Committee as Chair. Any member who chairs this committee may not serve as URC Chair Elect for the coming year. Volunteers include: Karl Wood, Sam Fernald, Igor Sevostianov, Michele Nishiguchi, and Patricia Wojahn.

3. Update on URC Creative Scholarly Activity Awards

This year the criteria for creative scholarly activity were changed to be open in number of applications instead of limited to a certain number from each college. Only five in early career and four in distinguished career were submitted. After discussion, a motion was made to let the committee decide if another announcement needs to go out. If the call is reopened, the faculty/staff with packets already submitted will also have an opportunity to update their submissions.

4. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Vimal Chaitanya told URC the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will provide a stimulus package that is a one time opportunity and more than likely will not be repeated again. He said that NMSU has to come up with significant steps or the opportunity could be missed completely as every university will also be taking advantage of this.

Some details of the stimulus package include:

- For stimulus, NSF will have \$3 billion, NIH will have \$10.4 billion, and DOE will have \$40 billion - all competitive;

- Faculty and staff should apply for as many opportunities now as possible These are one time opportunities so long term programs should not be considered, rather build on existing strengths and projects already in pipeline;
- As part of ARRA transparency and reporting requirements, Recovery.gov will have intensive tracking of expenditures of stimulus funding by project, contracts, and jobs created or workforce development.

5. Charter

Enedina Vazquez suggested that the old version of the URC charter be updated to show the new charter changes for comparison. At Sam Fernald's request, Dr. Vazquez agreed to compose the charter this way for the next Faculty Senate meeting at which Myriam Torres will provide the comparison document.

Minutes by Frances Schumacher