

University Research Council
Approved Minutes
September 18, 2009

Present: Vimal Chaitanya, Joseph Berning, Phillip DeLeon, Sam Fernald, Shanna Ivey, John Mexal, Rachel Navarro, Michele Nishiguchi, Collin Payne, Igor Sevostianov Meghan Starbuck, Steven Stochaj, Enedina Vazquez, Michael Young

Absent: Jeffrey Arterburn, David Barney, Jim Kroger, Kevin Melendrez, Patricia Wojahn,

1. Minutes from August 21, 2009 were approved as presented
2. NMSU Research: Accomplishments, Challenges and Future Directions - Vimal Chaitanya

Vimal Chaitanya gave the annual report on research activities at NMSU to URC that is provided to the Board of Regents every September. Emphasis was placed on interdisciplinary research, partnerships with other institutions, and the NMSU research clusters. Dr. Chaitanya gave an overview on comparison of submissions by units, sponsored awards and expenditures. Information on opportunities included the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded projects, the green grid initiative, expansion of centralized user facilities, the National Alliance for Advanced Biofuels and Bio-Products (NAABB) and NMSU's proposed role in algal biofuels production, and the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program (IGERT). Strategic awards included biosciences' NM INBRE which was extended with \$16.5M from NIH, MBRS-RISE was extended for four years from NIH, Astronomy was successful with a NSF award for \$1.2M for four years, and the NM Solar and Stellar Seismology received \$750,000 from NASA EPSCoR. Also mentioned was the National Solar Observatory (NSO) currently headquartered at Sunspot New Mexico. The new telescope will be set up in Hawaii and if the NSO remains in New Mexico, it will have an anticipated job creation of 120 with labor income of approximately \$5.8M per year. The final slide provided NSF Rankings for years 2005-2007 which have improved.

3. NMSU Research Environment Survey

Glenn Kuehn will provide a presentation on the Research Survey at our next URC meeting. Dr. Chaitanya asked URC to review the handout carefully as there have been a few things that have changed.

4. Chair-Elect Vote Confirmation

At the August 21, 2009 meeting, a paper vote was taken to nominate the URC Chair-Elect. The outcome was four votes for Michele Nishiguchi, and three each for John Mexal and Phillip De Leon. Michele Nishiguchi was unable to accept the position. Phillip De Leon agreed to be Chair-Elect.

5. Volunteers Requested for URC Fair Poster Judging

Sam Fernald, Michael Young, Enedina Vazquez and Michele Nishiguchi volunteered to judge posters this year.

6. URC Goals/Volunteers for the Academic year

- ARGIS and COGNOS Capabilities – Steve Stochaj
URC would like an ARGIS presentation at a future meeting. Discussion/comments included what COGNOS and ARGIS can do
- Billing Process – Enedina Vazquez
Key barriers: billing on time, billing takes long time to process with Banner. Work on payments to be sent out on a timely manner
- Supplemental Compensation – Vimal Chaitanya
Remove disparity for supplemental comp. easier to teach a class HSS do salary savings/bonuses. Teaching verses Research, pay issues
- Issues with Research Functions - _____
Accounting, purchasing and hiring process improvements
- Vendors-Contractors – Shanna Ivey
- Criteria for URC Awards – Michael Young

7. Federal Initiative

Collin Payne volunteered to help with Federal Initiative review panel. This is set for October 14th and 15th.

8. Revisit

White paper on research. URC will report on the advantages and disadvantages (hindrances) of doing research at NMSU. The paper was commissioned on August 2009 with expected completion in January 2010. All findings will be reported to Chair Starbuck, and then reviewed by URC. The finished paper will then go to administration. Please see Attachment A.

URC to look at research “clusters.” The 2008 Research Survey will be used as a base to review clusters by URC.

Young Researchers and Trainees Program for Cooperative R&D between AIST and NEDO of Japan and the State of New Mexico. Dr. Chaitanya told URC about the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) and the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) of Japan; with the cooperation of the Ministry

of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) will invite young researchers and trainees from the State of New Mexico to promote research between Japan and the United States. This is a significant opportunity for students and they should be encouraged to apply. The deadline to register is October 15th through the VPR.

President Pacheco to visit URC. Dr. Chaitanya suggested having President Pacheco attend a URC meeting and would like to have the council work on a well articulated list of key areas. The previous report should be used as the basis for describing the needs of faculty. He would like to have a two page document on key areas. John Mexal suggested asking what President Pacheco needs from the URC as well. Dr. Chaitanya will have his door open to whoever would like to work on preparing further suggestions.

URC/VPR Road Show. Sam Fernald and John Mexal encouraged Dr. Chaitanya to continue the road shows and visit colleges. Chair Starbuck feels that the URC can get valuable feedback from faculty at these events.

Minutes by Jenny Castillo

Attachment A

URC Report on Research at NMSU - Commissioned: August, 2009 - Expected Completion: January, 2010

Report Components and Lead Author		
Section	Description	Lead
Benefits of Research	Revenue streams, publications, reputation, attract students and faculty, expertise, outputs from research, furthers teaching and outreach missions	Steven Stochaj
Salary Structure	Current salary structure for faculty at NMSU. Proposals for changing structure	David Barney
Incentives for Increased Research	How salary structure hurts research productivity. Proposals for change. Looks at non-monetary incentives for research as well.	Michael Young
Teaching vs. Research	Synthesis between teaching and research, how improving research culture improves teaching and outreach	Shanna Ivey
Resources Needed for Research	What resources are required by faculty; how is this being supported or neglected by admin.	John Mexal
Clusters	Structure, outcomes. Proposals for change	Sam Fernald
Centers and Institutes	How to use these to improve research and funding and teaching	Jeff Arterburn
Recommendations for FS/ADMIN	For each section a set of actionable proposals and recommendations for improvement to change policy.	Meghan Starbuck Jim Kroger Patti Wojahn
Barriers to Research at NMSU	Comprehensive review of barriers (monetary, non-monetary, administrative, physical space etc)	Enedina Vazquez
Graduate Programs & Research	Link between graduate programs and research; issues; needed improvements	Michele Nishiguchi
Grant Preparation Process	Support and barriers, training needs, support needs	
Review of Past Studies on Research	Collect and summarize previous attempts, the fate, why failed to change the key barriers, or create better incentives.	Igor Sevostianov