

University Research Council
Approved Minutes
November 20, 2009

Present: Jeffrey Arterburn, David Barney, Joseph Berning, Phillip DeLeon, Sam Fernald, Shanna Ivey, Jim Kroger, Kevin Melendrez, Collin Payne, Igor Sevostianov, Meghan Starbuck, Steven Stochaj, Enedina Vazquez, Patricia Wojahn, Karl Wood, Michael Young

Absent: Vimal Chaitanya, John Mexal, Rachel Navarro, Michele Nishiguchi,

1. Minutes from October 30, 2009 were approved as presented
2. Poster Presentation by URC Fair Winner

Agenda-Setting for Healthy Border 2010: Research Directions and Implications for Border Health Leadership, Advocacy and Practice

Drs. Chuck Kozel, and Anne P. Hubbell. Dr. Kozel provided URC with handouts and a brief description of their research.

3. Rights/Responsibilities of P.I.'s vs. Human Resources and Department Heads

Chair Meghan Starbuck told URC that she had received an email from a faculty member who suggested that there needs to be clarification on the rights/responsibilities of principle investigators working to support their grants. Discussion ensued with comments such as 1) the NMSU policy manual should have specific policy for P.I.'s to cope with hiring issues, and 2) funding agencies might have policy to follow in regards to hiring of faculty/staff for their grants/contracts that would supersede NMSU policy. Chair Starbuck will have this as a "revisit" topic on the next URC agenda.

4. Export Control Assurance

Concerns were brought up regarding export control. Mentioned was the possibility that a faculty member might not realize their research could be a potential security threat. The College of Ag has their faculty complete a form for every proposal that goes out. It was suggested that URC have the Grants and Contracts staff member, Michael Ferguson, who works with export control visit the next URC meeting. Mr. Ferguson may be reached at mferguso@nmsu.edu or by calling 646-2142.

5. Shared Governance and Transparency Policy Proposal

Several cases with adverse affects as a result of policy change at NMSU were discussed. It appears that policy and/or procedures at NMSU are being made that have lasting adverse affects on faculty and staff. The changes are made with inadequate feedback and consulting with those affected by the changes. URC would like to see shared governance and transparency of policy

be discussed with the new president. URC would recommend a policy that would include faculty/staff review prior to policy change.

Joseph Berning told URC that Tara Grey with the Teaching Academy is taking a shared governance document to the provost in the near future. Chair Starbuck will consult with Dr. Chris Erickson of Faculty Senate to make sure URC doesn't duplicate efforts. Another topic of concern is that the Board of Regents has a student regent voting on important issues and yet the faculty senate chair who also sits on the board is not allowed to vote.

6. Other

Patti Wojahn suggested inviting the new president to visit URC at the January 2010 meeting. Discussion commenced on topics to present to the president. Steve Stochaj is mapping an organization chart that will show areas where most problems occur. Also suggested was providing the white paper topics list so Dr. Couture is aware of the white paper URC is creating. It was agreed that while concerns are good to mention, that positive information should also be provided. Jim Kroger told URC that the faculty forum for Dr. Couture was very positive with her comments on research and faculty support. The VPRGI office agreed to transcribe that portion of the forum for URC. The URC mission statement will be provided to her as well.

Revisited:

7. Report on Whitepaper Tasks

Several members gave updates on their whitepaper tasks. Chair Starbuck wants the paper to be in a consistent format with a clear statement of recommendations that includes supporting documents. The recommendations should be productive.

Minutes by Frances Schumacher