

University Research Council
Approved Minutes
August 20, 2010

Present: Jeffrey Arterburn, Susan Beck, Joseph Berning, Phillip DeLeon, Katherine Giles, Shanna Ivey, Kevin Melendrez, Curtis Monger, Pierre Orelus, Collin Payne, Igor Sevostianov, Steven Stochaj, Patricia Wojahn, Karl Wood, Jack Wright

Absent: Wanda Borges, Vimal Chaitanya, Meghan Starbuck, Enedina Vazquez, Michael Young

1. Welcome New URC Members / Introductions
2. Minutes from April 22, 2010 were approved as presented.
3. Concerns and Suggestions from April 22, 2010 Meeting

The concerns and suggestions taken from the URC April 22, 2010 meeting regarding the Business and Finance office was provided as a handout to URC. It was agreed that some of the topics had improved such as the hiring policy for post docs. Also mentioned was ACES is now receiving salary savings to reinvest as the college feels appropriate. Members were reminded that they had agreed to provide a letter to President Couture to “wrap up” issues presented earlier. Two concerns that don’t appear to have been addressed is, 1) disclosure of where IDC funds are going, and 2) review of the Government Relations office on campus to determine if their practices/procedures are successful or not. URC asked that Vimal Chaitanya provide an update of where percentages of IDC are going.

4. Chair Elect Vote

Chair Phillip De Leon provided URC with a description of duties that the URC Chair would be expected to assist with so that members would have some idea of what is involved. Some of these tasks included chairing the academic year URC monthly meetings, serving as the URC representative on the Council of Research Centers (CORC) which meet during the annual year on a monthly basis, serving as a review panelist on the Federal Initiatives review panel, and serve on other panels as requested by the Vice President for Research. Volunteers for Chair Elect were requested. Steve Stochaj and Shanna Ivey were suggested with no others volunteering. They were asked to leave the room so a vote could be taken. Steve Stochaj was nominated Chair Elect and will serve on the URC Executive Committee as such for this academic year.

5. Policy re Foreign Applicants

Igor Sevostianov told URC that apparently a new policy/procedure has been made regarding foreign applicants having to submit a foreign credential evaluation. Dr. Sevostianov is concerned that the new procedure will hurt their PhD program. He said from April 1st, the Mechanical Engineering Department has not received any applications from foreign students. Taking into account that 100% of their PhD students and about 50% of Master students are foreigners, the ME’s graduate program will be severely impacted. He also said that if a professor has a research grant and wants to hire a person whom he/she believes has the required credentials/qualifications, that hire should be the professor's prerogative. It was

pointed out that no discussion was brought to faculty members regarding this new procedure and its potential repercussions. URC discussed this and both Drs. Sevostianov and Jeffrey Arterburn volunteered to research this issue and bring information back to URC at the next meeting.

6. Federal Initiatives Call

The Federal Initiative's guidelines/instructions were provided as a handout and URC was encouraged to review and distribute it at their colleges. The guidelines went out to the all-faculty list-serve on August 6, 2010. The deadlines are:

- Deadline for submitting all initiatives Noon, September 27, 2010
- PI presentations before the review panel October 19-20, 2010
- Review panel's announcement
regarding initiatives selected. October 29, 2010
- First draft of the book distributed to Deans,
Research Deans, President, and Provost November 29, 2010
- Final draft completed December 20, 2010
- Book distributed January 10, 2011

7. URC Fair

The URC Fair will be held on October 1st this year in Corbett Center 2nd floor lobby starting at 1:15 p.m. The deadline to register is September 20th unless the registration fills up prior to that. Chair De Leon encouraged URC to register and show a poster saying that research faculty could do more to market research on campus. For the past three years, a poster competition has taken place with first, second and third place prizes of \$300, \$200, \$100 respectively. The Fair usually has 45 entries which can make judging rather difficult in the hour and a half that the fair takes place. Judge volunteers include Karl Wood, Jack Wright and Kevin Melendrez. (More volunteers are needed so this topic will be brought up again at the September 17th meeting.)

8. Principal Investigator Certification Training

OGC and SPA will offer Principal Investigator Certification training on two separate sessions; Sept. 15 from 9 to 11 a.m. and Sept. 16 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Large Conference Room in Anderson Hall. The training is intended to provide assistance to NMSU researchers and/or other personnel involved with support efforts for proposal preparation, processing, submission and administration of grant and contract awards. For more information or to register e-mail ogc@nmsu.edu.

9. Future Meeting Dates

With the exception of December and May, meetings have been scheduled for the third Friday of every month during this academic year.