

**University Research Council**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**September 17, 2010**

**Present:** Susan Beck, Joseph Berning, Wanda Borges, Vimal Chaitanya, Phillip DeLeon, Shanna Ivey, Pierre Orelus, Frank Ramos (Giles), Igor Sevostianov, Meghan Starbuck, Steven Stochaj, Enedina Vazquez, Karl Wood, Michael Young

**Absent:** Jeffrey Arterburn, Kevin Melendrez, Curtis Monger, Collin Payne, Patricia Wojahn, Jack Wright

1. Minutes from August 20, 2010 were approved as presented.
2. COGNOS Training – Norma Noel, Dee Olarey, Kathy Montoya and Natalie Kellner

Business reports and principle investigator reports were demonstrated by the Business and Finance Office and SPA. Step-by-step instructions were handed out. Some concern mentioned was that P.I.'s need to know the funds available especially towards the end of a grant. The COGNOS reports indicate what was approved the day before. This provides some room for error. It was also mentioned that the COGNOS system is not user friendly. Vimal Chaitanya told URC that the software Grants & Contracts uses (ARGIS) will be demonstrated at a future meeting as it was specifically purchased three years ago to help support P.I.'s. The goal is to settle on a software system that will support researchers in the fastest and most accurate way possible.

3. NMSU Policy Manual re Research – Bill Harty

Executive Director for Research Administration, Bill Harty, provided URC with two handouts that contained the current NMSU policy regarding research and a “tracked” document that showed proposed changes. Mr. Harty asked URC to review the policies and provide comments to him. He will then go to VPR Chaitanya, then NMSU’s legal counsel, then back to URC for final review.

4. Policy re Foreign Applicants

Chair DeLeon provided URC with a memorandum he had written to VPR Chaitanya for his reference at an Academic Deans Council (ADC) meeting at which the new policy for foreign applicants was discussed. Because of falsified credentials and potential liability, a new policy has been put into effect that foreign students will have their credentials evaluated. At ADC, Provost Wilkins suggested that the process should be invisible with NMSU picking up the cost to avoid a drop in graduate student enrollment. ADC members were supportive of changing the new policy. It was noted that policy creation such as this should be transparent and input from potentially affected parties should be solicited prior to implementation.

5. IDC Distribution

This topic was requested by URC at a previous meeting and Vimal Chaitanya provided the council with a general summary. He said 45% goes to the colleges and they determine how

much the departments get. The departments then decide how much the P.I.'s will receive. 2.5% goes to the library and 2.5% goes to the provost's office. The provost office is also tied to start-up packages for new faculty. When department heads make a request for a start-up, they make the request through their dean, then the VPR, then the Provost. Regarding the rest of the 50%, there is no set percent that goes to the VPR. It varies from 30% to 35%. The other 15% to 20% goes elsewhere of which he does not know. A handout was provided from the presentation given to President Couture last May that suggested IDC should be used to support the associated research and strategic investments with high potential for return. The change suggested to President Couture was the creation of an IDC Board that can monitor and advise on IDC investments and allocations in a fair and publicly available process.

#### 6. Research Processes Issues Committee

Per President Couture, this ad hoc committee is to "bird-dog" a list of issues that were created from a meeting between Jay Jordan, Vimal Chaitanya and President Couture. This committee should meet weekly and provide a weekly progress report on solving the issues identified. This effort will be lead by the research office and in the VP's absence, URC Chair Phillip DeLeon. It is hoped that the issues will be resolved before the December holidays. The members include Vimal Chaitanya, Chair; Phillip DeLeon, Co-Chair (if Chaitanya absent); Bob Czerniak; Jay Jordan; Sudha Murthy; and Angela Throneberry.

#### 7. URC Fair – Request More Poster Judges

At the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, Karl Wood, Jack Wright and Kevin Melendrez volunteer to judge posters at the URC Fair. Due to the large amount of registrants it was decided that more judges were needed. Wanda Borges, Susan Beck and Enedina Vazquez agreed to judge as well. Members were encouraged to attend on October 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:15 p.m.

#### 8. Federal Initiatives

Deadline to submit is September 27<sup>th</sup> for new initiatives. Presentations to the review panel will take place on October 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### 9. Senior Vice President for Business & Finance Search

The URC will have specific time set aside for on-campus interviews with the finalists for the Senior Vice President for Business and Finance. Members are highly encouraged to attend as this will be an opportunity to get candidates thoughts on some business issues and processes at NMSU that have affected researchers, currently and in the past.

#### 10. URC Involvement in Efficiency & Effectiveness Committee (EEC)

Vimal Chaitanya will follow up with this topic to see if the committee has been set or whether the URC will have a member on in attendance.