

**University Research Council**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**January 21, 2011**

**Present:** Jeffrey Arterburn, Susan Beck, Joseph Berning, Vimal Chaitanya, Phillip DeLeon, Katherine Giles, Shanna Ivey, Kevin Melendrez, Pierre Orelus, Igor Sevostianov, Steve Stochaj, Enedina Vazquez, Patricia Wojahn, Karl Wood, Jack Wright, Michael Young

**Absent:** Derek Bailey, Wanda Borges, Curtis Monger, Collin Payne, Meghan Starbuck

1. Minutes from November 19, 2010 were approved as presented.
2. NMSU Policy – Proposed Restructuring and Revision to Policy 5.94 (Research)

Executive Director for Research Administration Bill Harty met with URC at a previous meeting and asked for URC's review and suggestions for the NMSU policy on research. He said that since the policy manual contained a lot of procedural policy, it was decided by the VPR to rewrite the research portion of the manual. Mr. Harty asked URC to review again and send an electronic vote to him before February 4, 2011 so he can move forward with further approval.

3. Interdisciplinary Master's Program

Chair-Elect Steve Stochaj told URC that he felt NMSU should have an Interdisciplinary Master's program to complement the Interdisciplinary Doctorate program. He said with fields changing rapidly that NMSU might not have the agility to add or change Master's programs in a timely manner. He gave an example of NMSU having a Master's program in algae fuels or space physics which would place NMSU in a strong position to attract outstanding graduate students and facilitate funding programs such as IGERT and the DoD Center of Excellence. VPR Chaitanya voiced some concern that this would make the student a master of none. Enedina Vazquez told URC that she had created an Interdisciplinary Master's program when she was Associate Dean of the Graduate School. Dr. Vazquez was able to determine that the Interdisciplinary Master's program she had worked on was still in the catalog, but references to it on the Graduate School's webpage were removed.

4. International Recruitment/Credential Evaluation

Chair-Elect Stochaj told URC that he learned the Provost has created a position to perform credential evaluations for international students so that they do not have to suffer the cost. He said that some damage has still occurred as graduate student enrollment had decreased in his and other departments. Michael Young made a motion that URC draft a resolution to remove all references on NMSU internet sites of the credential evaluation cost to students. The motion was seconded by Joseph Berning and it passed unanimously. Chair DeLeon said he would draft the resolution and provide it to members for review.

## 5. Library Summary on GWLA

Susan Beck told URC that GWLA is an academic research library consortium that provides a way to share costs, and realize digitization projects. The Library is looking at other consortia as well as GWLA. If it is decided to join GWLA, they would have a site visit to see if NMSU Library qualifies. The Provost has asked for a peer review at NMSU. Dr. Beck believes that consortia will be the way in the future as libraries get budget cuts. Chair DeLeon asked Dr. Beck to consider URC support if that will assist with the process.

## 6. Federal Initiatives Process

VPR Chaitanya provided URC with the Federal Initiative process. The call for initiatives goes out in September and in October, presentations are made by the P.I.'s to a review panel made up of the URC Chair or his/her designee, research deans from colleges that have initiatives, NMSU's Federal Relations Firm Lewis-Burke's Carole McGuire, the Assistant VP for Government Relations and the VPR. The initiatives are selected for inclusion in the book by several criteria. One is their not having the ability to receive outside competitive funding. Another is their ability to increase economic development and/or workforce development.

VPR Chaitanya told URC that he will be in Washington DC on January 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> with President Couture to distribute the Federal Initiatives to legislators. Lewis-Burke has suggested that they not make these requests as earmarks; the plan is to provide the book showing areas of importance to our legislators so they are aware of them. He said that the most hope is Congressman Pearce is willing to assist with programmatic funding; however it is up to the program manager as to where he/she wants to put the money. Federal Initiatives are considered and should be used as seed money.