

University Research Council
Approved Minutes
April 13, 2011

Present: Jeffrey Arterburn, Derek Bailey, Susan Beck, Joseph Berning, Vimal Chaitanya, Phillip DeLeon, Sam Fernald, Pierre Orelus, Igor Sevostianov, Meghan Starbuck, Steve Stochaj, Patricia Wojahn, Jack Wright, Michael Young

Absent: Wanda Borges, Katherine Giles, Shanna Ivey, Kevin Melendrez, Curtis Monger, Collin Payne, Enedina Vazquez

Guests: Associate Provost Greg Fant and Admissions Director Valerie Pickett

1. Graduate Student Applications Process – Credential Evaluation

Deputy Provost Greg Fant told URC that Provost Wilkins regretted not being able to join this meeting. Dr. Fant wanted to provide an update on where they are with the graduate student application process, and what might be the best way to transition from an external foreign transcript evaluation to an internal foreign transcript evaluation. He said the new position to assist with credential evaluations has been approved by HR. They are hoping to have a July or August hire date and have this person prepared for Summer 2012 admissions. They are currently processing Fall 2011 admissions. Dr. Fant asked for input on how to manage the Spring 2012 applications until the in-house person is up to speed which will allow faculty to actively recruit the best students, and not pay for evaluations of all others.

Discussion commenced and URC members from Chemistry/Biochemistry and Engineering said they prefer to have the applications come directly to their departments and/or colleges for review prior to their being reviewed by admissions. VPR Vimal Chaitanya suggested that the evaluation fee be removed from the website as part of the protocol for the application process so that potential students are not discouraged to apply or select a different university based upon the fee.

Dr. Fant decided to invite representatives from all departments on campus who might be affected by the process or who would have feedback to a meeting the Wednesday of exam week. The location and time will be determined. Dr. Fant also asked URC what their thoughts were for raising the TOEFL scores for admissions. Igor Sevotianov said that 70 to 80 wouldn't be bad, but 70 to 100 would hurt enrollment.

2. Minutes from January 21, 2011 were approved as presented.

3. Chair Elect Vote

URC members voted for Shanna Ivey as Chair Elect with Michael Young as second should Dr. Ivey decline the nomination. She was not available to accept.

4. URC Award

It was suggested that the criteria be updated and a “tracked changes” document showing the edits be sent electronically to URC for comments or suggestions and approval.

5. Thomson Reuters “Research Performance Comparisons Report”

Susan Beck provided members with two handouts. One was the Thomson Reuters Research Performance Comparisons Report which was prepared exclusively for NMSU. Dr. Beck said she had sent this report to Office of Strategic Initiatives Director Sudha Murthy so she could review the institutional ranking information which is an industry standard. Dr. Beck also provided a personal invitation to the open forum for library review. The NMSU Library has been given the opportunity to participate in an external review by a three-member team of library leaders from other universities. NMSU faculty are invited to attend on April 18th from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

6. Financial Incentives for Researchers

Chair De Leon asked members to provide him with feedback on their thoughts for financial incentives for researchers. Michael Young mentioned San Diego State has grant funding go into a foundation 501C3 to further funded research. Thoughts and ideas are welcome.