

University Research Council
Approved Minutes
January 20, 2012

Present: Jeffrey Arterburn, Salim Bawazir, Susan Beck, Wanda Borges, Rebecca Creamer, Joanne Esparza, Sam Fernald (Catherine Ortega Klett), Steve Hanson, Shanna Ivey, Cathy Kinzer, Kevin Melendrez, Pierre Orelus, Igor Sevostianov, Steve Stochaj, Laura Thompson

Absent: Derek Bailey, Vimal Chaitanya, Phillip DeLeon, Kathleen Huttlinger, Collin Payne, Patricia Wojahn

Guests:

1. Approval of Minutes for November 18, 2011

Minutes were approved with correction.

2. URC Award for Creative Scholarly Activity – Update Call

The mark-up handout that was provided to URC for their review had suggested changes. URC agreed with the changes and a revised URC Award for Creative Scholarly Activity call will be sent via email attachment to URC before the next meeting prior to campus distribution.

3. Summary of Progress for Improving Research Administration at NMSU

Chair Steve Stochaj gave a brief background on the NMSU Research Environment Study which was funded by NIH through the Support for Continuous Research Excellence (SCORE) program that Dr. Glenn Kuehn headed. A good portion of his findings helped to generate the URC presentation to President Couture when she first came to NMSU. Out of the presentation and meeting with URC, President Couture founded the Research Processes Issues Committee of which VPR Vimal Chaitanya and URC Past Chair Phillip DeLeon co-chaired. This committee looked at administrative processes and made attempts to rectify if possible some of the processes that hindered researchers.

Dr. Kuehn provided a progress report in mid-January to URC for discussion on the progress or lack thereof for improving research administration and whether or not any change had occurred since the committee's work. Chair Stochaj suggested URC look at what is still ineffective and decide what to do to resolve the issues. Comments included the website that was to support this endeavor only shows what has been reported and the bar for the issue being reconciled does not work. The website which will be ran from the VPR office has not been completed yet but should be up very soon. Another suggestion was to have an annual audience with President Couture with a continuous committee to oversee issue resolution.

Chair Stochaj suggested that a research foundation seems to be the way some successful universities get around the processes issues and also supplemental compensation. Joanne Esparza told URC that the Physical Sciences Laboratory (PSL) used to be operated similar to a research

foundation, very successfully. Chair Stochaj said New Mexico Tech and the University of California at San Diego have research foundations. He asked URC for their thoughts on this. It was suggested that Angela Throneberry be invited to a future meeting.