

University Research Council
Approved Minutes
February 20, 2012

Present: Wanda Borges, Vimal Chaitanya, Phillip DeLeon, Steve Hanson, Kathleen Huttlinger, Shanna Ivey, Cathy Kinzer, Igor Sevostianov, Robert Smits, Steve Stochaj, Patricia Wojahn

Absent: Jeffrey Arterburn, Derek Bailey, Salim Bawazir, Susan Beck, Rebecca Creamer, Joanne Esparza, Sam Fernald, Kevin Melendrez, Pierre Orelus, Collin Payne, Laura Thompson

Guests:

1. Approval of Notes/Minutes for December 13, 2011 and January 20, 2012

Notes and minutes were approved as presented.

2. URC Award for Creative Scholarly Activity

A review panel was formed to assist with reviewing and ranking of the packets for the URC Award for Creative Scholarly Activity. Igor Sevostianov, Steve Hanson, Shanna Ivey and Patti Wojahn volunteered to serve on this subcommittee. The deadline to receive packets in the VPR office is March 12th. The VPR office will deliver binders with copies of the packets to the review panel before the end of that week for their consideration. They will meet after Spring Break to discuss their ranking of the packets and provide their suggestions to Vice President Research Vimal Chaitanya.

3. Formula Funding – Workforce Development through STEM

Chair Steve Stochaj told URC that the new formula funding has been approved by the state. The effort to change the original formula funding came about because the formula did not differentiate between research universities, four-year colleges and community colleges. The state used student credit hours (SCH) which was not a fair way to fund research universities.

VPR Chaitanya said that emphasis will not be on SCH, but will include other factors such as degree completion. Retention will become an important issue with both graduate and undergraduate enrollment counted. Chair Stochaj said it will include number of degrees awarded. In comparison to the old SCH, the new formula will count classes completed. Students with a “W” will not have the class counted but “F” will. Workforce development, also mentioned, will include the number of STEM degrees completed.

4. Senior Vice President for Finance & Administration Angela Throneberry Visit to URC

Chair Stochaj said he is trying to confirm a visit to URC at our next meeting by Angela Throneberry. He mentioned the Research Processes Issues Committee that President Couture asked to be formed to look at processes such as mentioned in the above item No. 4. Chair Stochaj suggested that URC use information from the progress report that Dr. Glenn Kuehn provided for

our January 20, 2012 meeting to include in the presentation. Past Chair Phillip DeLeon mentioned that it is coming up on one year since the Research Processes Issues report was completed and it would serve as a good reference to the length of time taken to try to resolve the issues. VPR Chaitanya said some of the issues are systemic and might take a bit longer to work with.

5. Other Topics

Concerns:

VPR Chaitanya said that we as a university continue to struggle with protocols. He mentioned an HSMI grant through Arts & Sciences, a very prestigious grant, which received another 4 years of continuation. When the first year ends and the second year starts, it might take a few weeks to get the funding. SPA does not let you have the funding to spend unless it is in hand. If you need a new hire, they won't let the process start until funding is received. He asked if URC wanted to take this issue up again and see it to completion. It was suggested that this topic be added to the presentation for Angela Throneberry.

Informational:

An invitation was given to URC to attend the Arrowhead Center Networking Mixer being held on February 23rd at 4:00 p.m. Speakers will be President Barbara Couture, Dean/VP for Economic Development Garrey Carruthers and New Mexico Development Secretary Jon Barela.

Informational:

VPR Chaitanya told URC that he had attended the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) inauguration last week. He said David Kappos, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, delivered the keynote address and told attendees that they are working hard to reduce the backlog of requests. The number of patent requests submitted in the U.S. is a half million per year with half of that being accepted. VPR Chaitanya said he wanted the deans and department heads at NMSU to become aware that patents should be considered a form of creative scholarly activity and carry weight just as having a publication in a reputable journal.

Because NMSU is a charter member of the NAI, a certain number from NMSU may attend at half the cost of the conference fee. They have four issues per year for their journal and faculty members with news worthy items are encouraged to submit. If any URC members are interested in see the journal, they should let the VPR office know so they can get a scanned copy. Chair Stochaj asked what the process is that NMSU uses to determine what is patentable intellectual property. VPR Chaitanya suggested that URC invite Dr. Kevin Boberg, Associate Research Dean and Director for the Arrowhead Center to a future meeting so that he can provide this information on this important process.

Chair Stochaj asked for an action item which was for URC members to go back to their colleges and talk to people, find out if they know anything about the patent process and perhaps we can come up with an education program that will inform faculty members to how the process works. He feels we might be losing out on potential intellectual property and/or recognition by not submitting requests.