

University Research Council
Approved Minutes
April 20, 2012

Present: Jeffrey Arterburn, Salim Bawazir, Susan Beck, Vimal Chaitanya, Rebecca Creamer, Phillip DeLeon, Joanne Esparza, Kathleen Huttlinger, Shanna Ivey, Cathy Kinzer, Pierre Orelus, Collin Payne, Robert Smits, Steve Stochaj, Laura Thompson, Patricia Wojahn

Absent: Wanda Borges, Sam Fernald, Steve Hanson, Kevin Melendrez, Igor Sevostianov

Guests: Kevin Boberg, Jason Koenig, Lori Gobble, Norma Noel, Tammy Bracamonte, Bill Harty

1. Intellectual Property at NMSU – Kevin Boberg

Dr. Boberg provided information regarding intellectual property management at NMSU. He told members that Jason Koenig (telephone 646-5398) is the initial person to contact when faculty or staff members have questions. He is responsible for regulatory compliance, and technology commercialization. From the Obama administration, state legislature and NMSU Regents, the intellectual property office is being asked to encourage start-ups. He gave an example of a faculty researcher who has marketable IP, saying that the choices are either going to market through a license to an existing company, or going through a start-up. The IP office has to determine where the probability of success will be. NMSU policy says that IP is owned by the Regents and assigned to Arrowhead Center, Inc. for commercialization. However, out of respect for the researcher and the likelihood of success, it would be self-defeating for Arrowhead to not work with the researcher and try to come to an agreement.

Arrowhead, Inc. seeks to advance four principles which include dissemination of knowledge, incentives, policies and procedures, and collegial. Components of IP management include patent maintenance, inventor correspondence, invention disclosures, government reporting, records management, release of rights, vetting committee and billing NDAs. The process includes step 1) disclosure to Arrowhead Center, step 2) evaluation by vetting committee, step 3) protection by Arrowhead retaining outside counsel and step 4) commercialization. The commercialization process is undergoing new strategies and programs which include a launch program, technology commercialization associates program, faculty incubator space, and relationship building.

For more detailed information on the IP process, please see attached presentation. Chair Steve Stochaj told URC that a goal for next year would be faculty re-education in the IP process and the URC should be instrumental in pushing this re-education through.

2. Banner-Delivered Electronic Effort Certification System – Lorin Gobble and Norma Noel

Ms. Gobble told URC that the Administration and Finance office is going to implement the electronic effort certification system on August 1, 2012. Ms. Noel gave a live demo using their training website. This site may be accessed at http://www.nmsu.edu/~spa/EEC_Project.html.

3. Post-Doc Role on Grant Proposals

Chair Stochaj told URC that this topic was brought to URC as a concern about having post-docs submit proposals. Apparently this takes an extra level of paperwork and suggestions were made to update the current NMSU policy “Eligibility to Serve as a Principal Investigator.” URC reviewed the current policy and agreed with the suggested change of (b) research and development technical staff, “*as well as post-doctoral fellows.*” Bill Harty who wrote the policy said that the interpretation could be to include post-docs which would keep the policy from having to be rewritten. This was agreed upon by VPR Chaitanya.

4. Faculty Senate Memorial Requesting F&A Funds for Library

URC was provided a draft memorial to increase F&A funds for the library that will be submitted to Faculty Senate. Chair Stochaj opened up the topic for discussion. He said that while he agrees that better access to research journals is needed, that what should be pointed out is the 2.5% that the library lost several years ago is now funding start-up packages for new incoming faculty members. The colleges need to realize that the potential is there for loss of some funding support if the 2.5% is restored to the library. VPR Chaitanya said to put this in perspective, 2.5% is roughly equivalent to \$400,000. A question rose as to why the library was reduced from 5% to 2.5% and it was mentioned that when the 2.5% was taken, it appeared the library had a surplus of funding that they was not being utilized. Susan Beck suggested that all colleges at that time had a surplus of carry forward. She said they had \$4.5M that was primarily salary savings from open lines that weren’t filled. VPR Chaitanya told URC about a Council of Research Centers (CORC) meeting that took place July 12, 2007 in which the associate deans for research discussed the surplus and suggested that the funding could be used to better support research, if it was not going to be used to the betterment of the library. Senior administration took the 2.5% funding and provided it to the Provost’s office for start-up package match with the deans. The current administration has given that funding to VPR Chaitanya to work with start-up funding. He said he has made the use of the \$400,000 transparent should anyone care to see how it is being spent.

5. President Couture and Special URC Meeting in May, 2012

President Couture has requested a special meeting with URC to discuss where IDC goes. This meeting will take place in May and a date/time confirmation email will be sent to URC as it becomes known.

6. URC Award Recipients

URC Award recipients are all early career as selected by the award committee. They are Carmen Gimenez Smith from English, Stephen Rice from Psychology, Cathy Kinzer from Curriculum and Instruction, and Hongmei Luo from Chemical Engineering. Their \$2000.00 awards will be presented to them at the Fall Convocation.

7. Thank you Chair Steve Stochaj and Outgoing URC Members

A sincere thank you was given to URC Chair Steve Stochaj for his leadership during the academic year and to the URC members whose terms are ending on June 30, 2012.