

University Research Council
Approved Minutes
September 14, 2012

Present: Rani Alexander, Jeffrey Arterburn, Salim Bawazir, Susan Beck, Rebecca Creamer, Muhammad Dawood, Joanne Esparza, Alexander “Sam” Fernald, Richard Fortin, Stephen Hanson, Kathleen Huttlinger, Shanna Ivey, Cathy Kinzer, Collin Payne, Robert Smits, Steve Stochaj, Laura Thompson

Absent: O.D. Hadfield, James Robinson

Guest: Gary Rayson

1. Welcome New URC Members / Introductions

New and returning members introduced themselves.

2. Summary of URC’s 2011-2012 Special Topics - Past Chair Steve Stochaj

Past Chair Stochaj mentioned three achievements that URC accomplished and they included the meeting with President Couture that she requested so she could provide information/disclosure of where and how the overhead was being used by administration. The second achievement was Associate Provost Greg Fant’s assistance in pushing through simpler requirements for foreign graduate students so that their enrollment numbers don’t drop from upfront credential review costs. And third, students awarded fellowships were losing benefits and it was worked out so they can be hired as regular graduate research assistants to alleviate this lose.

3. Council Outlook for 2012-2013 – Chair Shanna Ivey

Chair Ivey told members that the URC has grown over the past years as a group that strongly supports researchers. To name a few, there has been a recent push to educate faculty members with the intellectual property process at NMSU, the VPR would like to start research styled workshops similar to what the Teaching Academy does. She said that URC member Salim Bawazir will be the URC representative on the Building the Vision (BTV). Chair Ivey told council members that their taking information back to their colleges is an important part of being a URC member.

4. Approval of Minutes for March 16, 2012 and April 20, 2012

Minutes were approved with the correction of a spelling error.

5. Resolution for Change in Credit Hours Required for Grad Students – Gary Rayson

Dr. Gary Rayson said the proposed resolution was being brought before URC at the request of the Graduate Council and Teaching Academy for their opinion. The resolution proposes “It is requested that the administration change the current policy within the Graduate Catalog regarding the number of credit hours required for full time status of graduate students to 9 hours with a change in tuition and fee assessment for graduate students enrolled in 9 to 15 hours to reflect this

full time definition.” Discussion commenced and some comments included that with this change, the students could take a heavier load in the beginning and do more research further into the program. It was also suggested that this resolution request be linked to Building the Vision because of its potential to increase the grad student credit hours. A motion was made and seconded to endorse this resolution and the council agreed.

6. Memorial for Change in Policy for Grad Assistant Pay Schedule – Gary Rayson

Dr. Rayson told URC the memorial for change proposes “It is requested that the administration change the current policy regarding payment of graduate assistants to enable them to receive 1/9th of their semester compensation, less any taxes and payroll deductions, starting with the first pay period of the semester for those supported by a one semester contract or 1/18th of their nine-month compensation for those students supported for the academic year.” After discussion, some comments included the hardship students have working for one month with no pay for housing or food. Chair Ivey mentioned that students need to be registered by August 1st. Past Chair Stochaj said even then, they must pass the ITA screening and that might provide a two-week earlier start date. He also mentioned that a manual check can be cut but it will cost \$100 to process. A consideration was to ask the Business and Administration office to either waive the \$100 fee or possibly reduce the cost for departments with grad students falling under this hardship. A motion was made and seconded to endorse this memorial and the council agreed.

7. URC Fair – October 5, 2012

The Twelfth Annual URC Research and Creative Activities Fair invitation was provided as a handout and the deadline for registration was mentioned for September 26, 2012. Frances Schumacher provided stats to URC that included the number of posters for past fairs. They included:

Year	Number of Posters
2005	49
2006	30
2007	49
2008	48
2009	45
2010	53 (10 ACES, 8 A&S, 2 BUS, 4 EDU, 23 ENGR, 6 HSS)
2011	30 (7 ACES, 8 A&S, 0 BUS, 4 EDU, 6 ENGR, 3 HSS, 2 VPR)

A request for volunteers to judge the posters was made and Kathleen Huttlinger and Susan Beck volunteered. All members were encouraged to attend.

8. Other

Sam Fernald asked if the URC could have a copy of the presentation that President Couture gave to URC in May 2012 that showed where F&A funds are distributed and/or used by upper administration. It was mentioned that VPR Vimal Chaitanya has requested the presentation from Angela Throneberry but his request has not answered.

8. Other (continued)

Rani Alexander asked that URC look into the administrative process for international travel saying that between International Programs and Risk Assessment, traveling to foreign countries is very approval cumbersome. She would like to see Risk Assessment using the U.S. Government's issued warning instead. This topic is to be brought up at a future meeting.

Minutes by Frances Schumacher