University Research Council
Draft Minutes
August 9, 2013

Present: Rani Alexander, Susan Beck, Matthias Burkardt, Vimal Chaitanya, Rebecca Creamer, Stephen Hanson, Stuart Head (for Joanne Esparza), Shanna Ivey, Mary O'Connell, Hari Sankaran, Robert Smits, Steve Stochaj, Mingjun Wei

Absent: Jeffrey Arterburn, Muhammad Dawood, Sam Fernald, Richard Fortin, O.D. Hadfield, Cathy Kinzer, Jill McDonald, James Robinson

1. Welcome and Introductions

    Introductions were made and Chair Steve Hanson welcomed new and returning council members.

2. URC Fair – Friday, October 4, 2013

    Members were encouraged to publicize the upcoming fair with their deans/departments and recruit faculty to register to help make this thirteenth annual event a success.

3. Update on Activity Over the Summer

    President Carruthers had formed a committee that was to review the research processes. From that committee, research focus groups met on three occasions to try to determine the current issues. VPR Vimal Chaitanya provided a handout that outlined the topics (see attached for record). Chair Hanson said that President Carruthers was hopeful to have recommendations no later than convocation; however he was advised at a recent University Executive Council that convocation would not allow enough time for consideration.

    Expanded role for URC – URC will have a member (probably Chair) on the University Budget Committee so that research is represented; Steve Stochaj will be on the search committee for the Chief Information Officer (CIO); and other assignments for URC are likely to be presented.

4. Annual Survey for Research Faculty

    Members were asked if conducting an annual survey would assist with morale and process problems. Suggestions were as follows:

    - the survey might track trends with numbers on progress
    - the survey needs to have objective measures
    - logical questions need to be determined
    - another survey is not needed as most issues have remained the same
    - a survey might help track new issues as they develop
    - VPR/URC website could have a feedback link instead of an annual survey
    - survey should not be a measure of productivity
    - Institutional Analysis could run the survey

- instead of survey, perhaps a feedback form could be used for those submitting a proposal – which would actually target the researcher involved in the process

5. Preparation for meetings with President on August 23rd and Provost on September 13th

    Chair Hanson provided a draft presentation to members asking for their suggestions. Slides were discussed thoroughly and it was decided that the presentation with its detail would work well for the Provost's visit but that it needed to contain more concise plans/suggestions that can be implemented. Chair Hanson will provide the updated draft to URC before August 23rd meeting.

Minutes by Frances Schumacher