

**University Research Council**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**May 9, 2014**

**Present:** Jeffrey Arterburn, Susan Beck, Vimal Chaitanya, Cathy Ortega-Klett (for Sam Fernald), Jill McDonald, Mary O’Connell, Hari Sankaran, Steve Stochaj, Mingjun Wei

**Absent:** Rani Alexander, Matthias Burkardt, Rebecca Creamer, Muhammad Dawood, Joanne Esparza, Richard Fortin, O.D. Hadfield, Stephen Hanson, Shanna Ivey, Cathy Kinzer, James Robinson, Robert Smits

1. URC Awards

The URC Award for Early Career goes to Jessica Houston in Chemical Engineering and an Early Career tie for second place for Lily Hoang in English and Michelle Salazar Perez in Curriculum & Instruction. The distinguished Career awards go to Michael Hyman in Marketing and Steve Stochaj in Electrical & Computer Engineering.

2. Digital Measures Project – Specialty Keywords

Chair Elect Steve Stochaj provided a handout and delivered an update regarding Digital Measures to URC. He said that a committee was formed to enhance the software with a push from upper administration to use key specialty words to track research. This would assume that all faculty are entering everything there and that the tags are accurate. Dr. Chaitanya told URC that CADRe was also tasked with reviewing the key words. He said it was recommended that a category called “other” should be considered where faculty could enter their own word(s). Dr. Stochaj said another consideration is the government uses certain key words to track federal funding. The question would be if a person uses a word that isn’t on that federal list, what would happen.

Some council members have provided words that would fit with their research but concern was mentioned that the entire dictionary could potentially be recreated. Another concern was what if the keywords are at a high enough level that is one thing, but then if drilled down to words used for very specific research, it could become fundamentally flawed. Jeff Arterburn suggested that URC could make a point to the Digital Measures committee that this approach is probably not acceptable for achieving their goal.

Dr. Stochaj said that Bill Harty who works with ARGIS would like to work on specific faculty cases to interface keywords. The two drivers for this effort are possibly the new key performance indicators, and the ability for NMSU to respond directly to queries from state legislature. It was mentioned that ARGIS only captures proposals and awards. Research conducted by people who do not write grants would be missed by this search mechanism. Dr. Stochaj said he would draft a response and deliver it to URC by Monday for review as the Provost wants to hear back from URC before May 16<sup>th</sup>.

### 3. Other

- a) Drs. Stochaj, Arterburn and O'Connell were asked to work with ITC as users, to introduce a new tab in My NMSU. Dr. Stochaj said ICT is receptive to mining information and putting it in a format that is agreeable to most of the users. This has the ability to show who has been paid on a grant and over what time periods. Information on projects can be retrieved by drilling down relatively easily. Dr. O'Connell said ICT has surveyed campus to see where the data is and they have created the one place where a person can access it. ICT is being sensitive to the number of clicks and the new tab is very promising. Dr. Chaitanya said the ARGIS system had the same capabilities and it seems like a duplication of efforts. It was agreed that Dr. Chaitanya would talk to Norma Grijalva to let her know of the options within ARGIS and have Bill Harty available as well. Dr. Arterburn mentioned there being 27 to 30 clicks involved to find simple things such as viewing the business rates.
- b) Dr. Chaitanya informed URC that Senators Udall and Heinrich were very interested in getting the three research universities, the government labs, and White Sands Missile Range to name a few, together to work on promoting New Mexico stature in research and economic development. New Mexico Collaborative Research and Development Council (NMCRCDC) was created for this effort and a celebratory kick-off was attended by the Director of Los Alamos National Labs, Sandia National Labs, Air Force Research Lab, White Sands Missile Range, Holloman Air Force Base, the Presidents of UNM, NMT and NMSU, and the Vice Presidents for Research. This has gained momentum and they are now in the process of looking at the best areas that all NMCRCDC have in common. Dr. Chaitanya wanted to bring this to URC's attention as there are certain things that NMSU is not taking full advantage of. For example, NMSU has joint faculty lines with LANL. SNL is working on a document that will allow them to work with UNM to create joint faculty lines for which he is very interested in starting the same dialog with SNL. AFRL's university advancement person, Casey DeRaad is trying very hard to create part of their budget that can be diverted to New Mexico institutions for support.

He also mentioned the New Mexico Consortium was formed to increase research collaboration with LANL which cannot compete for federal funding so through NMC, a non-profit organization, LANL staff can write federal grants and work with our faculty.

Dr. O'Connell said she has a collaboration with a SNL employee and about 5 days before a proposal was due, their business office said the SNL employee could not write for the money which has a cap on indirect with USDA. From a business perspective they cannot collaborate, but from a scientific perspective they will continue to collaborate. Dr. Chaitanya suggested that perhaps a similar non-profit like NMC would be beneficial for work with SNL.

A final concern Dr. Chaitanya wanted to bring up is that New Mexico is an EPSCoR state for NSF. The EPSCoR nationwide committee is trying to re-define what EPSCoR means. This could be detrimental to NMSU so we need to do everything we possibly can to ensure this does not negatively affect us.