

University Research Council
Approved Minutes
October 21, 2014

Present: Susan Beck, Jamie Bronstein, Vimal Chaitanya, Maria Gurrola, Kathryn Hanley, Hongmei Luo, Jill McDonald, Mihai Niculescu, Mary O’Connell, Hari Sankaran, Steve Stochaj, Mingjun Wei, Karin Wiburg

Absent: Jeffrey Arterburn, Matthias Burkardt, Joanne Esparza, Sam Fernald, Stephen Hanson, Cathy Kinzer, Clint Loest

1. Approval of Minutes

September 16, 2014 minutes were approved as presented.

2. URC Fair

Frances Schumacher provided fair data which included the number of posters submitted by college and department. The poster award winners are: tied for first place “Developing Time Resolved Flow Cytometry for Fluorescence Decay-Dependent, High-Throughput Cancer Cell Counting and Sorting” Jessica Houston (also a URC Award Recipient this year); and “Metal-Binding Components of an Unusual ABC-Transporter System” Erik Yukl (shown by M. Handali). Second place goes to “Angular Momentum of Light” Mazen Nairat and third place to “A Wearable Sensor System for Monitoring Gait and Balance” Alla Kammerdiner (shown by Andre Guerrero and Justin Winans).

3. Ways to Increase Proposal Submissions

Chair Stochaj had additional information on what is being accomplished across campus to encourage an increase in proposal submissions. Included was the Biosciences club which has a mentoring group led by Jeff Arterburn. The Colleges of HSS and Education have recently started a similar group with the assistance of ORD. Mary O’Connell said her department has run grant writing workshops over a multi-day period lead by an outside source and found that to be effective. Vimal Chaitanya encouraged members to use the Office of Research Development for assistance with writing grants. It was mentioned that other universities encourage their faculty members to serve on agency review panels which also helps.

4. Discussion and Preparation for Provost Howard Visit to URC

Chair Stochaj indicated that some slides used in past presentations to President and Provost would be skipped this time in order to focus on other areas of interest. He provided a handout with suggested topics. A few items not covered in the handout were:

- hiring of post-docs - still seem to have problems
- faculty incentives - allowing sabbaticals to not be taken all at once
- F&A return to the researcher – widely different across colleges

- banked funding for release time – if not used, then forfeited
- research faculty being able to release themselves from research administration
- TA and RA allocations earlier and interchangeable
- ability to promise more than one year to TA
- TA's losing scholarship if they are used as RA

5. Introducing Robert Ketchum, Founding Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Pre-Clinical Education & Director of Research

Dr. Ketchum will be establishing the curriculum during the next six to nine months prior to the arrival of faculty for the new osteopathic school on NMSU campus. He is interested in seeing how the school can fit in with NMSU. They will be opening their doors in less than two years. They hope to provide some library services and hope it will be reciprocal. An MOU was signed recently to start the dialog for some basic service sharing such as with the Office of Grants and Contracts, and Institutional Review Board processes. The osteopathic school will provide support via FTEs for the service sharing.

6. Banner Data Through Cognos by Building Oracle Tables

Steve Barkes provided a demonstration of the ARGIS system and indicated that in order for this software to be fully functioning, a read-only link to Banner needs to be established. No new money or funds would be required for this. A question was asked whether the IDC incorrect number could be remedied. Mr. Barkes said if the connection with Banner is established, then yes. He asked council members to contact him if they have any questions. He may be reached at: sbarkes@nmsu.edu.