

**University Research Council**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**November 18, 2014**

**Present:** Jeffrey Arterburn, Susan Beck, Vimal Chaitanya, Maria Gurrola, Jill McDonald, Mihai Niculescu, Mary O'Connell, Steve Stochaj, Karin Wiburg

**Absent:** Jamie Bronstein, Matthias Burkardt, Joanne Esparza, Sam Fernald, Kathryn Hanley, Stephen Hanson, Cathy Kinzer, Clint Loest, Hongmei Luo, Hari Sankaran, Mingjun Wei

**Guest:** Sudha Murthy

1. Approval of Minutes

October 21, 2014 minutes were approved with corrections.

2. Office of Research Development – Sudha Murthy

Dr. Murthy gave a description of what the Office of Research Development (ORD) can provide to both junior and senior faculty members that included assistance in grant preparation for both large and small grants. They look for funding opportunities and distribute these using the GRID system. ORD has offered grant writing workshops in past fall and spring semesters; however the number of attendees have fallen. Dr. Murthy asked URC if they have suggestions on how to assist or help motivate faculty towards more proposal submissions. Comments included having net-working sessions, target departments that have a historically smaller record of submission that have potential for growth; and faculty incentives for submitting proposals.

3. University Budget Committee Update

Steve Stochaj gave members an update on the University Budget Committee meeting he attended. He said the student enrollment numbers are down about 5% which means less state funding for NMSU. At the meeting he was provided a spreadsheet by the Assistant Vice President for Government Relations Ricardo Rel that broke down the state funding to schools within New Mexico. While half of the funding is distributed between the research universities UNM, NMT and NMSU, the other half is disproportionately provided to many community colleges and four year colleges. It was agreed that while this is politically good for the communities, it is bad for research growth and graduate level education and the funds are not being spent effectively by the state. Concluding this discussion was the hope that NMSU's administration will focus on acquiring more funding for the university so that it may remain a strong research institution.

#### 4. Provost Howard Presentation Discussion

Discussion commenced regarding the list of topics provided at the October meeting. Included were: administrative burden for researchers not being resolved through the research processes committee even though senior administration believes that the service departments such as HR, purchasing, travel and SPA have resolved these issues, they have not. Examples were given such as the amount of time needed to search and find where stalled purchase orders are; HR working for approximately three months to reclassify one job description to another job description; SPA not billing NASA correctly which would have incurred a loss of \$30K had not the P.I. made an extra effort to resolve.

The research processes report was to be provided earlier this year; however a draft went out in October with a request for comments by the end of October. The anticipated final was expected November 1<sup>st</sup> but has not been distributed as yet. Also questioned is with the research numbers falling, why NMSU continues to retain the number of accountants in SPA and in the Finance and Administration offices as opposed to increasing staff to assist with proposal development, preparation and submission.

And finally the question of whether NMSU is looking at what is needed to increase graduate enrollment. Agendas for Admin Council and Presidents Academic Council rarely look at graduate student enrollment, but more commonly at undergrad enrollment. Senior administration needs to realize that research is integral to having a graduate education institution.