Present:  Anup Amatya (Jill McDonald), Jeffrey Arterburn, Susan Beck, Vimal Chaitanya, Maria Gurrola, Cathy Kinzer, Hongmei Luo, Mary O’Connell, Steve Stochaj, Mingjun Wei, Karin Wiburg

Absent:  Jamie Bronstein, Matthias Burkardt, Joanne Esparza, Sam Fernald, Kathryn Hanley, Stephen Hanson, Clint Loest, Mihai Niculescu, Hari Sankaran

1. URC Chair Elect Vote

A vote was taken and Kathryn Hanley was elected URC Chair for 2015-2016.

2. Data Collection for Provost Letter

Some of the data requested of the IRG recipients has been received and there is good evidence that the program is successful. All information should be ready for review at the first URC meeting being held next academic year. The GREG recipients have not been queried at this time but should be in the next week. Discussion commenced and it was suggested that the URC should request the Dean of the Graduate School complete a similar process but with categories such as Ph.D. completion, number of students that went on to get NIH or similar funding or fellowships, were students picked up on waiver able to get sustainable employment within their departments, publications and conferences to name a few. The categories can be better defined early next semester. It was also suggested that URC should have the GREG data in hand before sending a request to the Graduate Dean.

3. URC Award

The URC Award review panel determined that the three packets that were submitted this year, while very promising, did not have the qualifications to be awarded. They suggested that a URC award not be given this year and that the individuals who had packets submitted be encouraged to apply again.

4. Other

Steve Stochaj was applauded for his work this academic year as the URC Chair and appreciation was conveyed. He suggested that the URC Chair Elect and Past Chair be more active to support the current Chair.

VPR Chaitanya suggested that consideration be made to have the URC Chair have a two-year term. If this is something that members believe to be a good idea, the charter will need to be updated. This can be a consideration for future agenda.

Minutes by Frances Schumacher