University Research Council
February 28, 2017
Approved

Present: Karen Caldwell, Sarah Carmichael, Neel Das, Allan Duncan, Karen Fletcher, Lucinda McCray, Maurice Meilleur, Amy Roberts, Karla Rusch, Iryna Sharaievska, Caroline Smith, Robin Tyndall, Alan Utter, Twila Wingrove

Excused: Charna Howson, Alecia Jackson, Christine Leist, Gary McCullough

Absent: Nicole Bennett, James Houser

Guests: Eshe Hamme, Kate Hoffman

Alan Utter calls the meeting to order.

MINUTES: Motion to approve January 24, 2017. Motion passes.
Alan Utter introduces Eshe Hamme, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations. Eshe joins University Advancement having served in a variety of development roles, most recently as Director of Philanthropy at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health.

NEW BUSINESS:
Banner Dashboard Report Demonstration - Amy Roberts

Amy Roberts explains how to request Banner access for specific funds and how to use Dashboard to view the cash balances of those funds. Chair must request Banner Finance security for PI through an electronic ITS form. An URC member requests if it is possible for automatic fund access to principle investigators of external awards.

External Funding Goal for 2014-2019 Strategic Plan – Alan Utter

Last year’s awards of $16.2 million exceeds the original goal of $15 million. UNC-GA is developing a system wide strategic plan and is asking what Appalachian’s new goal is. Provost Kruger requests feedback regarding releasing the new internal goal of $18 million prior to responding to UNC-GA. Appalachians’ record dollar amount of awards is $17.2 million. Is $18 million realistic? Shall the goal remain internal? Awards are at $8 million as of the end of January 2017.

Discussion: Members respond that it is important to know what the federal budget will be. There is concern about Humanities funding. It is crucial to a strategic goal to have the Appalachian Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations working with the Office of Research. The balance of research in addition to teaching and presenting is difficult. Sharing goal with UNC-GA will make Appalachian publicly bound to reaching the number. The progression of award dollars jumps this past year instead of incremental yearly increases. There is not enough staff in Sponsored Programs to handle this new goal. The award dollars may decrease.
Alan wants to continue to offer FRT awards for faculty to write applications. Writing proposals is akin to a course’s worth of work. The most important things about external funding are that it extends the body of knowledge that would not have happened otherwise and it includes students.

**Internal grant funding for non-tenure track faculty – Karen Fletcher**

Non-tenured track faculty are looking for funding for their salary during the summer. There is no funding mechanism in place currently. Some colleges do provide summer stipends. What can we do? CAS is considering this for their summer program in the future. Is this something the URC would like to investigate? Have you heard from other non-tenured faculty?

Discussion: Will Faculty Senate address this first? What is their contract assignment? Is it more than teaching? Is there an expectation for them to do research? This varies by department. Some departments have heavier loads even for non-tenure track. Deans handle multi-year contracts and determine job expectations. Chairs and deans must support it for it to work. Research is a long time investment and non-tenure tracks are typically one year. Now contracts can be up to three years.

URC has funded non-tenured faculty, just not for salary. Alan is trying to work with deans to provide 8% base pay summer research stipends for writing proposals.

**BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Student Research – Increased application submissions, but the budget has remained the same.
- Grants Resources and Services - URC proposal submission deadline is March 7\textsuperscript{th}. Allan Duncan shifts to the Arts & Humanities panel, as a panel member is applying. Panels have until March 15\textsuperscript{th} to review proposals. Matrices are due by April 4\textsuperscript{th}.
- Sponsored Programs - Reports are online.
- Research Protections - IRB final is published (February 19\textsuperscript{th}), provided it is not overturned by the current administration. The effective date is 2018. A new section on bio-specimens and a revision of consent are included.
- Other – Innovation grants review committee receives forty-four applications. Five receive a maximum funding of $10,000 each. The Chancellor will work with deans to fund additional applicants.

Alan Utter thanks members for their service.

**Adjournment 5:04 pm**