University Research Council
January 24, 2017
Approved

Present: Nicole Bennett, Karen Caldwell, Sarah Carmichael, Neel Das, Allan Duncan, Karen Fletcher, Alecia Jackson, Christine Leist, Lucinda McCray, Gary McCullough, Amy Roberts, Iryna Sharaievska, Caroline Smith, Alan Utter

Excused: Charna Howson, Karla Rusch, Robin Tyndall

Absent: James Houser, Susan McCracken, Maurice Meilleur, Twila Wingrove

Guests: Hessam Ghamari, Kate Hoffman

Alan Utter calls the meeting to order, wishes everyone a Happy New Year, and asks for introductions from attendees.

MINUTES: Motion to approve November 15, 2016 minutes. Motion passes.

URC Awardee - Research Overview
Hessam Ghamari presented his research from his Fall 2015 URC award “Quality of Life in Assisted Living Facilities: Identification of the Outdoor Attributes as Influential Factors of Therapeutic Environments”
Dr. Ghamari expressed thanks to the Office of Research and Appalachian Regional Healthcare System where the study took place. Dr. Ghamari used eye-tracking software to track what participating subjects looked at (signage, lighting, furniture, etc) in the hospital facility while they attempted to navigate their way to specific locations. This information can be used to assist in the design of healthcare facilities. Undergraduate students assisted with the study. Dissemination includes EDRA Raleigh in 2016, Watauga Democrat, an NIH grant proposal submission in 2016, and the 12th World Congress Design & Health Austria in July 2017. Student dissemination includes the North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium (SNCURCS) at N.C. Central University in Durham in November 2016 and the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in 2017.

NEW BUSINESS:

Recruitment of participants through mTurk and funding obstacles – Twila Wingrove
Postponement of the discussion due to the absence of Twila Wingrove. Amy Roberts offers assistance to help anyone with any questions regarding the use of mTurk.

Integrity in Scholarship and Scientific Research Policy – Alan Utter
The Appalachian Policy 211 that addresses integrity and research misconduct needs to be updated. Robin Tyndall and the Office of Research Protections will work on the first draft of updates. Research misconduct is falsification, fabrication or plagiarism (no case at Appalachian yet but if a case were to come up it could be complicated and contentious).
Alan has been trained in research integrity by a DHHS program and supports Appalachian’s need for a research integrity officer. He proposes a 25%-50% buyout position for a faculty member to serve beginning Fall 2017. The position would also provide educational outreach and workshops regarding responsible conduct and research methods. Alan requests feedback from the members on the proposed position. URC members are receptive to the position.

RIEEE update – Nicole Bennett

Alan Utter introduces Nicole Bennett, interim director of RIEEE, who has over 10 years of experience as a faculty member at Appalachian’s Chemistry Department. Bennett introduces her three-year plan, which expands RIEEE’s mission. Services include CONCERT grants, sustainability, financial administration for research projects, writing for joint research proposals, networks for collaboration, and interdisciplinary research clusters. Additional projects and sponsorships are The Value of... Symposiums, College of Business lecture series, Giving App Chemistry Majors MORE, mySTEM: Citizen Science in My Own Backyard. RIEEE wants to work with URC and campus so all internal funding is coordinated.

Expansion of services will include capacity building via graduate students, course based research with undergraduates, support for teachers K-12 with citizen science, and collaboration with HBCU, sustainability, entrepreneurship and commercialization entities.

BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Office of Research:**
  - Dana Powell needed a major budget revision for her URC grant due to the Standing Rock protests. Alan Utter approved the request, as there was no time to notify the sub-committee.
  - Trump Administration stopped all spending and hiring through EPA. It is unknown what it means or for how long. Appalachian employees Shea Tuberty and Ok-Youn Yu are EPA funded.
  - Tech Transfer director position is an internal search. OR is in talks with SBTDC to work with us. There is a meeting at the end of the month with the Provost to discuss this. Hopefully the position will be filled soon.
  - GearUp department has sold site licenses and is expecting to sell more.
  - Eshe Hamme accepted the position of Director of Corporate Foundation Relations. She hails from UC Berkeley School of Public Health. The position will work with corporate industry research contracts. The start date is February 6, 2017.

- **Student Research – 31st Annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research** has accepted forty-five students. The conference is April 6-8, 2017 at the University of Memphis. OSR’s FY17 budget is the same as FY16.
• Grants Resources and Services – OR purchased InfoReady's software package to administer OR internal competitions and limited submissions. The hope is that the InfoReady platform will eventually be used for internal competitions throughout campus. We will try to launch the spring URC competition with this software but might not be able to if we can’t synch the Shibboleth function in time. Katie Howard will contact URC members on regarding training and use of the system. This will be the portal for all of OR's internal grants. RIEEE is interested to use the software for CONCERT grants and the Graduate School will be using it for processing scholarships.

• Special Funds – Paper effort report requests for the fall semester are going out this week. Online effort reporting is still pending the Banner system upgrade. Amy Roberts offers to present on how to view and navigate campus funds and accounts in Banner at a URC meeting.

Alan Utter thanks members for their service.

Adjournment 5:07 pm