University Research Council  
March 21, 2017  
Approved

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

Excused: Alecia Jackson, Christine Leist, Twila Wingrove

Absent: Nicole Bennett, James Houser

Guests: Cameron Gokee, Kate Hoffman

MINUTES: Motion to approve February 28, 2017 minutes with corrections. Motion passes.

Alan Utter calls the meeting to order. Dr. Utter announces that he has accepted a position as the next provost at the Texas Women’s University. It was a difficult decision after 22 years at Appalachian, but it is a good fit. There is a meeting with Provost Kruger on Monday to discuss a transition to an interim who will be appointed and a national search is scheduled to take place in the fall. The URC is the governing body of faculty for research initiatives so members are encouraged to take suggestions and comments to Provost Kruger. Alan is available for those who wish to make suggestions in person. Members congratulate him.

URC Awardee - Research Overview
Cameron Gokee – Fall 2015 award “Badafassi Regional Archaeological Project”

Gokee has a background in archaeology and works in University College First Year Seminar. The Bandafassi project is in Senegal, a West Africa UNESCO World Heritage Site. Gokee travels there to discover what has been going on historically and to talk to the people while researching the movements of the people over the past 200 years. The research focuses on the areas of Bedik and Malinke.

Bedik’s highland plateau and surrounding caves protect its residents from invaders. The Ethiovar Village survey area is eight square kilometers and contains over one hundred archeology sites that have produced broken pottery, beads, and hut foundations that explain land use in the Medieval and Atlantic Periods.

Gokee hopes to apply for external funding to further archeological research and to collect oral history of the areas.

OLD BUSINESS:
Amy Roberts has access to assign fund numbers now. Alan thanks Amy Roberts for her efforts to accommodate faculty after the request was made in the February 2017 meeting.

BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS
Research – Alan will be recommending that the integrity officer and tech transfer positions be put on hold during the VPR transition unless Provost Kruger disagrees. OR is reinvesting back into its office and Charna Howson and Robin Tyndall have done a terrific job filling recent non-state funded positions. Alan attended the Oak Ridge Associated Universities meeting where they discussed the cost of doing research and concluded that the minimal office overhead dollars needed in order to break even and effectively compete for federal funding (without any hard data to reference) was $20 million annually. The conversation is an effort to address the infrastructure needs when competing for external funding.

Student Research – Tomorrow is the deadline to submit abstracts for the 20th anniversary of the Celebration of Student Research and Creative Endeavors Meeting. A reception is on April 26 at 5:30 pm in Whitewater. The celebration/meeting is April 27. Forty-eight students will present at NCUR on April 6 thru April 8 at the University of Memphis.

Grants Resources and Services - URC reviews are due in AsULearn April 4. Members determine awards on April 25. InfoReady submission software will be used for future URC competitions. Ongoing workshops include a weekly writing circle proposals and a fellowship webinar with Hanover.

Sponsored Programs – February stats are online. However, there are thirty proposals in Charna’s bucket and eight awards pending processing. SP’s new position will be responsible for Conflict Of Interest (COI) work as well as proposal and award processing. The position closes on April 14. Charna will attend an eRA systems meeting at Chapel Hill March 31. UNC CROs will make recommendation to UNC-GA about the eRA system recommended. This affects research protections, IRB, IACUC, and COI as well. If system builds proposals in one place and submits to sponsor directly, this will save FTEs.

Research Protections - Common Rule will be in effect 2018. Changes in policy allow flexibility for studies not needing oversight, such as some surveys and interviews. Robin will meet with specific departments to discuss the changes. The IACUC/IBC position should be filled by the end of April. People (1,200) need to complete the COI form. IRB transitions to a new IRB Chair, Andy Shanely.

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 4:58 pm