University Research Council
October 18, 2016
Approved

Present: Sarah Carmichael, Allan Duncan, James Houser, Charna Howson, Alecia Jackson, Christine Leist, Lucinda McCray, Gary McCullough, Maurice Meilleur, Karla Rusch, Iryna Sharaievska, Caroline Smith, Robin Tyndall, Alan Utter, Twila Wingrove

Excused: Karen Caldwell, Neel Das, Karen Fletcher

Absent: Nicole Bennett, Susan McCracken, Amy Roberts

Guests: Kate Hoffman, Katie Howard

Alan Utter calls the meeting to order and introductions are made.

MINUTES: Motion to approve minutes as corrected (correct 2019 strategic plan goal figures to $15 million and exceeded by $1,200,000). Motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS:

URC Grant Review Process – Katie Howard, Assistant Director, Grants Resources & Services

Katie Howard will conduct the technical review and back end processing for the 29 applications (10 humanities, 5 stem, 11 business, and 3 health) received. All who attended the URC workshop this semester submitted applications. Panel member instructions are available and accessible through the University Research Council ASULearn website. The ASULearn site features information for each panel with folders containing matrices for review of each applicant. Matrix comments should go at the bottom. Specify if the matrix comments go to applicant or panel only as the comments do not go directly to applicants automatically. An application contains a cover sheet and one must scroll down for the rest of the proposal. The budget is hyper linked within the document and is located as an appendix at the end of the application. Budgets have already been vetted for non-allowable expenses. Please flag applications within your panel group if something does not look right. The budget template auto-calculates. Also, application multimedia appear as links at the end of the application.

Applications will be released at end of next week. Notification will be sent from the GRS email (grs@appstate.edu). Panel members need to review and complete each matrix for each application by 8 am on November 4th. Answers will be compiled and sent to panel chairs to start final award recommendation discussions. The panel chair may meet in person or correspond via email at their discretion. The Google Sheet should be filled out by each chair for their respective area (color coded). Please add comments for each applicant in the comments box. Google Sheet completion is due by each panel chair by November 10th.
Humanities asked GRS to compile the Humanities panel review information first as members will be traveling.

There is $50,000 available to be awarded. Alan Utter states that this is the largest internal grant process on campus. Your review is important. Comments are critical. Feedback is really helpful. We want them to re-submit.

**Beaver College of Health Sciences overview – Gary McCullough, Associate Dean, College of Health Sciences**

A number of cool projects from IHHS focus on rural health and outreach, and regional wellbeing. Interdisciplinary work is happening too. Alan Needle’s athletic training grant is investigating neuromotor function from ankle and head injuries. Caroline Smith’s work (R1, NIH, & NASA) is on systemic heating to help lower back pain.

An NIH K-award submission involving head injury data by Louise Keegan crosses institutions (Wake Forest, Salisbury VA Medical Center). University of South Carolina at Columbia faculty member Julius Fridricksson will mentor the project. Health Sciences has connected with Wake Forest faculty to focus on grant writing. A K-award is a five-year NIH grant where one is mentored by someone who already has NIH funding. A requirement is 75% release time. The award mostly funds salary for the release, and $30,000 a year for research costs. By the fourth year the recipient is expected to be applying for R1 level grants. There are three or four different types of K-awards. NSF career awards focus on younger faculty members. NIH has a broader scope. They are very competitive.

Golden LEAF funding has been received to investigate tele health versus in-person visits at senior centers to assess wellness, fall prevention, etc. Charna Howson says Dave Williams has received a PhRMA literature development grant to crunch numbers through Appalachian’s CARE department. David Niemen is known for his data collection proposal submissions and awards. Companies coming to you to do research is a great thing as long as the data is protected and done the right way.

Alan Utter asks for someone to give an overview of their department or college at the meeting in January. Please email Karen Fletcher (fletcherkl@appstate.edu) if you are interested.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Centers & Institutes Policy – Alan Utter**

Faculty Senate is editing the Academic Governance Handbook and has asked the Office of Research to make the section on centers and institutes a policy so it may be removed from the handbook. This policy follows UNC GA policy. Deans will be meeting with center tenure
track faculty to determine a solution so it complies w/ the policy. Tenure for this year is ok. Policy is expected to be in effect for the next academic year.

URC members express concern about approving a policy that has clear academic and administrative ramifications that will affect faculty of existing centers on campus. The section in question is:

5.1.2 Centers or institutes may have non-academic titles for participating faculty. However, in no case may centers or institutes at Appalachian State University offer academic courses, have jurisdiction over academic curricula, offer faculty appointments, or originate promotion or tenure for faculty.

MOTION: Approve the Policy for Establishing and Reviewing Centers and Institutes with the exclusion of voting on section 5.1.2.

Motion passes with one member who opposed and one member who abstained.

BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Office of Research: Appalachian now ranks number two among research in UNC Schools with a master’s degree program.
  - Charging indirect rates and recouping costs allows for investment in funding for URC, FRT, and travel grants to meet with sponsors.
  - At some point the number of the student population makes an institution relevant per Tim Burwell.
  - If Appalachian is at the top of UNC master’s degree list, Appalachian makes another step in the right direction. Individual relevance.
  - Cynthia Liutkus-Pierce’s research is highlighted in the publications of the Washington Post, National Geography, Forbes, Huffington Post, and others. This is exciting and shows that Appalachian can compete with other universities.
  - The master plan planning is being discussed now and attending these sessions is a good place to comment.
- Sponsored Programs – There is a budget building workshop in this room on Monday.
- Student Research – Sixty undergrads will be presenting at the State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research & Creativity Symposium on November 5th.
- STEM: Stem post-lab event at the geology museum in the Rankin building until 7 or 7:30. Microscopy instrument lab will be open as well.
- Other

Alan Utter thanks members for their service.

Adjournment 5:11 pm