University Research Council  
September 20, 2016  
Approved

Present: Nicole Bennett, Sarah Carmichael, Neel Das, Allan Duncan, Karen Fletcher, James Houser, Charna Howson, Alecia Jackson, Christine Leist, Lucinda McCray, Gary McCullough, Maurice Meilleur, Amy Roberts, Karla Rusch, Iryna Sharaievska, Caroline Smith, Alan Utter, Twila Wingrove

Excused: Karen Caldwell, Robin Tyndall

Guests: Kate Hoffman

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

MINUTES: Motion to approve minutes from April 19, 2016. Motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS:

The University Research Council and Grants overview – Alan Utter & Karen Fletcher

Alan stresses the importance of three committees on campus: the URC, IRB, and IACUC. URC drives research programs and policy changes. Any new policy will go through this council first prior to any other body that approves policy. If a policy is worth exploring, we will do so. The Council will determine the URC grant awards.

Karen Fletcher reviews the URC section in the Appalachian State University Faculty Handbook to familiarize new members with the URC’s purpose. Alan Utter urges the Council to review the faculty handbook and get more involved with the agenda. Council members are encouraged to talk to their colleagues about their research concerns and ideas. College representatives are encouraged to provide a three to five-minute update on research highlights from their respective area. Health Sciences volunteers to give the first update at the next meeting. Alan thanks members for their service and reminds them that their active voice is needed.

The URC’s ASULearn site is a good resource for members and includes: notice of monthly agenda, meeting dates, materials and minutes, URC awardee list, Faculty Handbook, URC proposals, and more. A link to the Research Google Group link is posted there as well. Subscribe using the link or visit announce.appstate.edu to join and receive announcements. Please spread the word about the group. OR is actively inviting people. It was suggested that a link to the Google group should be added to OR’s website.

URC Grants - All college representatives are on a panel that vets proposals for awards. The URC Health Panel is new this year. October 18th is the proposal deadline. All proposals will be posted on ASULearn. A notification via email will be sent when proposals are ready to be reviewed. The review matrix is due November 4th. Panel chairs will contact panel members to finish their selections. Completed reviews are due by Nov 10th. Awards are decided at the Nov 15th meeting. Spring URC awards will be determined at the April meeting which will be the fourth Tuesday of the
month (April 25, 2017) rather than the third Tuesday (April 18th) of the month due to a University holiday.

BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

• Grants Resources and Services: Schedule of workshops for the Fall 2017 semester was provided.
• Sponsored Programs: – Statistics are posted on the website. Newly hired Roxie White from NC State has joined the staff. She has over ten years of experience. The office is receiving and submitting proposals, processing awards, and training new staff at this same time.
• Student Research: Over 4,700 graduate and undergraduate students have been funded through the office. NC Central is hosting the NCUCS conference. Please urge students to submit proposals.
• Office of Research:
  o OR exceeded the 2019 strategic plan goal of $15 million in external funding by $1,200,000 this summer (2016). Seventy-five percent of funding was comprised of federal and state grant awards. Alan credits faculty and OR staff for this accomplishment. A new internal goal of $18 million dollars has been set for 2019. This new goal exceeds Appalachian’s all-time high figure.
  o The indirect rate for FY17 has increased from 27% to 32%. Facilities and administrative cost return are currently being prepped for distribution. Department chairs and Special Funds Accounting ensure that the funds spent are related to research.
  o OR staffing needs are being evaluated as personnel changes happen.
  o The Faculty Reassigned Time (FRT) program call for proposals is out for next semester
  o The $1,000 Proposal Development travel grant award program call is out
  o The Office of Research Consultation continues to assist with data analysis.
  o Policies
    ▪ The course buyout policy is now in the Appalachian Policy Manual
    ▪ The student intellectual property and fellowship policies are scheduled to be presented to the Chancellor’s Cabinet.
    ▪ A draft policy on centers will be given to the URC members to vet after a meeting with the Arts & Sciences dean and associate dean.
  o Please forward meeting agenda ideas to Karen Fletcher
  o OR priorities this academic year are internal searches for a director of Technology Transfer and Commercialization and a research integrity officer, RIEEE’s comprehensive review, engagement with HBCUs, the innovation campus, and expanding OIED international research.
• Special Funds Accounting: There is concern about personnel capacity in order to meet projected goals.

CAMPUS RESEARCH COMMENTS

There is difficulty in hiring quality faculty when research centric faculty are not automatically given a reduced teaching load similar to other institutions. Alan Utter: At
Appalachian, department chairs have the option to allocate 25% of a faculty member’s time to allow for research endeavors. Recruiting faculty is tough. We need your active voice. Alan looks for three things when he meets with potential faculty: innovative ideas, poised and ready to seek external funding, and the willingness to mentor students.

House Bill 2 is affecting research at Appalachian. A student recruited for a RIEEE grant has decided not to come to Appalachian due to HB2.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 5:01 pm