Jeff Ramsdell calls the meeting to order.

MINUTES: Motion to approve minutes from April 25, 2017. Motion passes.

New Business

The University Research Council overview – Jeff Ramsdell

The Council serves as a liaison between the colleges and the research enterprise for the purpose of encouraging research activities. Research can be creative and scholarly endeavors as well as research. The purpose of the URC is outlined in the faculty handbook under section 7.5.21. As a Council member, listen, take comments, and bring recommendations to the Council.

UNC-GA measures research production in total dollars. However, money is not what research is all about. Many disciplines do not need much money to create research. Think about how the URC can help create and disseminate knowledge.

The University Research Council Grants overview – Karen Fletcher

The Fall URC grant process is being facilitated through the InfoReady platform. Katie Howard will attend the October 17th URC meeting to explain the review process, which will begin after applications are due on October 17th. There is $50,000 in total funding per fall and spring semesters. An approximate dollar amount for each panel to award will be provided, but the awarded allocation will ultimately be up to the panels. URC members have been assigned to specific review panels but they are anonymous to the applicants. The panel chair will be responsible for coordination of the review. The entire URC votes based on recommendations made by each panel at the meeting on November 21st. URC members can apply, but will be removed from their respective panel.
University Planning & Priorities Council Site, Strategic Direction #2: Advancing Knowledge and Addressing the Challenges of Our Region, State and World through Creativity and Innovation – Niki Bennett

The UPP Council’s Strategic Direction #2 reviewed faculty research and creative endeavors related to recruitment and retention. Responses from faculty who attended forums were collected, integrated, and grouped by sub-headings of time, internal funding, personnel, professional development, standard of living, resources, financial incentives, and space.

Time is related to providing faculty with more time to do research. OCSA policy varies by college and department. Course scheduling varies depend on chairs. How to maximize time to do research. How can it be used across campus? Include flex timing in current policy for granting OCSA.

Internal funding – Increase URC funding across campus via Office of Research, Chancellor, Academic Affairs, RIEEE funding, and fellowships; incentivize research among faculty at ASU; pilot projects pay for time (project feasibility funding).

Personnel – Fund graduate assistants, technicians, undergraduates, and staff. Create a funding pool for the Office of Student Research.

Professional Development – Tap into professional development through workshops, training, proposal development, networking, training and education of students.

Standard of Living – Recruit new faculty and retain current faculty. This topic overlaps with other UPP sub-committees. Temporary housing, reimbursement of all moving expenses, childcare on-campus, and dual career spouses have been suggested. There is a movement within Health Sciences to add another child care facility. The old high school has been discussed as a potential location. HR has an existing office that helps dual career families, led by Becky Gosky.

Resources – Increase start-up funds (difficult to be competitive). Utilize University Foundations. Resources are uneven across campus as it varies amongst colleges and departments. Have more re-assigned time among departments.

Financial Incentives & Other Resources – This is another wish list topic. Fund retention and merit-based raises based on research and creative endeavors. Encourage use of post tenure reviews to reward faculty and discuss salary compression. Provide more on-campus childcare, and internal grant support for pre-tenure faculty.

Space – Build new buildings. Set priorities. Add new site institute/centers for interdisciplinary research.
Personnel – Establish a Tech Transfer Office and an Advancement/Foundations Officer. Hire more staff for the Office of Student Research. Create short term research appointments for current faculty (on-campus scholarly assignment for research only).

How can you be involved? Brainstorm ideas for recommendations to provost to push a research enterprise at ASU. Participate in the UPPC process. Attend and speak at Provost charged listening sessions (URC, Provost, Chair, Dean Councils). Also, attend the budget presentations. These sessions help determine and explain how to disperse resources in relation to the strategic plan. Help keep the strategic plan active. The UPPC will be tasked to look at how we are doing with the existing set of metrics. In addition, Niki Bennett may be contacted.

A member asked why Appalachian does not offer a sabbatical to work on research? The current mechanism offered is an OCSA, which is only one semester and doesn’t necessarily provide the time you need to do anything. Plus you have to justify it and the work for that doesn’t necessarily make sense for the one-semester off.

Jeff states one can have a full year off, but at half one’s salary.

UNC Greensboro developed a research assignment program incorporating OCSA where one applies for external funding to help extend OCSA (off-cycle appointments). Institutions can create scholarly programs in order for research activities to continue. Pre-tenure OCSAs could really help faculty right before tenure.

Policy decides how an external grant or salary is used. There was a request that the Humanities could use assistance in writing a budget where on and off campus resources were involved in paying salary, as in a request to Fulbright or a residential fellowship.

The Fellowship Policy was designed to address this issue. See ASU Policy Manual Policy 221. There is a budget template available to assist with planning and faculty can work with Sponsored Program staff. The URC members can help get the word out to their college faculty that a policy is now in place to assist them with this topic.

Old Business

Brief Announcements

- Grants Resources and Services – The mentoring program, PREPARE, funded through a grant from NCURA, begins with the College of Health Sciences on October 6th. The SCORE program with Niki Bennet and Gary McCullough continues with sessions on September 20, October 3, October 18, November 7 and November 16. The FRT program had eight applicants. The internal development travel grant to meet sponsors is still available.
• Sponsored Programs – FY17 numbers are posted online under “Reports.” Current submissions are 243 requesting $73.1 million. Awards are 163 for $14.07 million. So far FY18 requests 25 submissions asking $3 million. Awards are 22 for $6 million.
• RIEEE – InfoReady request for proposals are listed on the InfoReady website, which include RIEEE’s Concert: Community Education and Engagement, Planning, and Standard Awards. Encourage your colleagues to go to the InfoReady website. RIEEE funding depends on supplemental funds from the state.

Adjournment – 5:09 pm