University Research Council  
March 15, 2016  
Approved

Present: William Baker, Becki Battista, Nicole Bennett, Sarah Carmichael, Susan Doll (via phone), Allan Duncan, Karen Fletcher, Charna Howson, Christine Leist, Gary McCullough, Amy Roberts, Karla Rusch, Robin Tyndall, Alan Utter

Excused: Karen Caldwell, Alecia Jackson, Chris Yang

Absent: James Houser, Cynthia Liutkus-Pierce, Susan McCracken, Gwen Robbins-Schug

Guests: Kate Hoffman

Alan Utter calls the meeting to order and introduces and welcomes Nicole Bennett of RIEEE.

MINUTES: Motion to approve minutes from February 16, 2016. Motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Policy for Establishing and Reviewing Centers and Institutes – Karen Fletcher

Information on centers and institutes currently reside in the Academic Governance Handbook. The Academic Policies & Procedures Committee suggests that the section should be in ASU Policy Manual. UNC already has a section in its policy manual. The UNC policy manual says each institution should have its own.

Karen Fletcher gives a brief overview of each section and opens the floor to questions. Does the draft policy insulate from future budget cut or elimination inquiries?
Alan Utter: It has the potential to insulate them. During the recently BOG mandated system wide review of all centers and institutes (that some called politically charged), ASU was asked to provide additional information of RIEEE. After the additional review, BOG agreed with ASU to keep the centers separate under the umbrella of RIEEE.

Appalachian Studies has a P&T committee, but the draft policy says that it is not allowable. Alan Utter: If the language in the policy gets approved that will need to be addressed.

Who or what body of people does the review? External reviews can advocate for change so institutes are more productive. How is the review evaluated?
It is not stated in the document. It is beneficial to see how other universities review their institutes and centers. The UNC recognized institutes and centers may be reviewed differently from the non-UNC recognized ones. See Appendix 1 of the document for review criteria.

The resources given to non-tenure appointments are unclear. Alan Utter: It is valuable to bring in expertise of those who want to do research, but who may not want to teach or be on tenure track. We need to welcome them.
Alan Utter advises that edits will be made and the edited document will brought back to the committee for approval.

**Brief Announcements**

- **Office of Research - Per Faculty Senate,** there will be openings (Business, A&S, Health Sciences (2), and Fine & Applied Arts) on the URC. One must self-nominate or be nominated to join. Please nominate. Talk to your colleagues. Self-nominate. We need research active people. The URC Spring awards will be discussed at the next meeting. The UNC CROs are discussing tech transfer commercialization of intellectual property from students and faculty. OR wants to open tech transfer office here at ASU. After the UNC CRO meeting there was a workshop on partnerships and collaborative grants between research intensive and comprehensive institutions. Each CRO brought faculty to the workshop. A&T’s total funding is third out of all UNC schools. Fifty percent of A&T’s sponsored projects are comprised of partnerships and collaborative grants. A&T caters to those faculty who have experience with these types of grants.

- **Grants Resources and Services –** Received 42 applications for URC awards. Email group-tech- research-support@appstate.edu has been created for data management plan help. A new $1,000 (reimbursement) Research Development Travel Grant is now being offered for meeting with program officers and sponsors (reviewed on an on-going basis until funds exhausted). A survey is being created to obtain feedback on how to improve and promote on-campus collaborations. Kevin Smith, Director of the Office of Copyright and Scholarly Communication at Duke University, presents a workshop titled “Scholarly Publishing in the Digital Age” on March 17th.

- **Sponsored Programs –** February statistics are 139 proposals submitted for a requested dollar amount of $19.2 million. One-hundred five awards have been received for a total dollar value of $12.9 million. Currently there are over 40 proposals being reviewed. Charlotte Smith is leaving to take a position at UNC Asheville. Stephen Kimel is leaving to go back to school for analytical statistics.

- **Research Protections –** IRBIS has been fully migrated to an online electronic form (no paper). An online application will have to be filled out for any renewal year other than year-16 (copy & paste from their old one). A consent form function is expected to be added to the system this summer.

- **Student Research –** Sixty-four percent of total student research awards are undergraduates and 63% of student travel grants are undergraduates this year. Sixty students have approved proposals to present at NCUR. April 21st is OSR Research Day and abstracts are due tomorrow (March 16th).

Alan Utter thanks the URC membership for reviewing the grants that will be deliberated and funded at the next meeting. It is an important task.

**Adjournment at 4:52 pm**