Voting Members Present: Les Bolt, Pollyanne Frantz, Lynn Gregory, Steven Hageman, Angela Losardo, Cindy McGaha, Amy Roberts, Karla Rusch, Leslie Sargent Jones, Amauri Serrano, Julie Taubman, Meredith Whitfield

Ex-Officio Members Present: Ed Brewer, Joseph Cazier, David Dickinson, Megan Johnson

Excused: Holly Hirst, Edelma Huntley, John Krumrine, Jennifer Snodgrass

Absent: Bill Bauldry, Kristan Cockerill, Lisa Curtin, Susan McCracken, Susan Staub, John Pine, Lisa Runner, John Turner, Alan Utter

Guest: Dr. Renee Scherlen

Dr. Pollyanne Frantz called the meeting to order. Drs. Huntley, Hirst, and Snodgrass, and Mr. Krumrine are attending a meeting with Microsoft in Washington. Welcome was extended to Dr. Renee Scherlen.

It was moved (Roberts) and seconded (Johnson) that the minutes of the January 19 meeting be approved with two corrections: 1) Leslie Sargent Jones was present; and 2) correct the spelling of “opposed.” Motion carried unanimously.

Reports from Proposal Development – Pollyanne Frantz

- Two planned events were cancelled due to weather in Boone and in DC. These are rescheduled and taking place this Thursday, February 18:
  - Corporation for National and Community Service (CNS) web conference with Kevin Days (Learn and Serve America program officer) and Dr. Norman Clark (project director from ASU) on Learn and Serve America higher education programs.
  - First Fridays with Dr. Nita Matzen talking about virtual worlds and IT.
- Two events in the Confab Clusters series are scheduled for March 1 (3D Virtual Worlds) and March 16 (Blue Ridge Parkway)
- March 23: Grant Writing Fundamentals (8:15-12 and 1-4). This workshop has been developed in response to surveys of colleges/school/library and workshop evaluations where people have requested instruction in the mechanics of grant proposal writing. There will be 30 available seats for the workshop. Workshop facilitators include research administrators from UNC-Charlotte and NC A&T State University. Both institutions exceed ASU in the amount of external funding received. URC members are invited to attend if they are novices, and are requested to encourage others to participate.
• Consultations with Research Development Officers are taking place for faculty who were declined URC funding.

**Report from Sponsored Programs.** There are no representatives from Sponsored Programs due to illness. Please refer to the ORSP website for awards, submissions, and college analysis reports.

**Report from Research Protections – Julie Taubman**

• Institutional Biosafety Council – continues to organize
• Institutional Review Board
  1. There is a meeting with oncologists from Seby Jones Medical Center and ASU personnel on Friday.
  2. IRB is working with FIT transformation. IRB approval letters need to be filed in grant folders.
  3. Of approximately 124 initial approvals this year, 168 studies went through the IRB. Of these, 18 were externally funded; 15 internally funded. There were 65 student PIs; 45% of submissions are students.
  4. The Chancellor appointed Dr. Jeff McBride to address the growing number of biomedical research proposals. His expertise will be added to that of Drs. David Nieman, Leslie Sargent Jones, and Taylor Rushing. Due to the number of proposals submitted by Dr. Nieman, he frequently has to recuse himself from the review process.

• Radiation Safety
  1. The Safety Office requests that issues involving radiation bypass the Safety Office and go directly to the Radiation Officer.
  2. Brian Raichle, chair, is required by the NC Department of Environmental and Natural Resources to receive appropriate training. Arrangements have been made for a consultant to come to Boone at a modest price due to local family. Training will be provided to Dr. Raichle and others.
  3. An inventory is being done of four departments who have radiation-generating machines. These areas will be required to meet compliance standards.

• Responsible Conduct of Research
  1. Dr. Rebeca Rufty (Associate Dean of the Graduate School, NC State) and Dr. Phil Langlais (Vice Provost, Old Dominion University) will serve as consultants RCR workshops on March 16 and 18. Dr. Rufty coordinates NC State’s RCR program.
  2. Ms. Taubman distributed the proposed “ASU Plan for Training Students in the Responsible Conduct of Research.” This plan is not yet approved by the Provost.

**Federal Relations – Meredith Whitfield**

• U.S. Army Special Operations (USASOC) and Marine special operations (MARSOC) visited campus to discuss collaborations with ASU in human performance research and other research areas.
• Dr. Susan McCracken was appointed Director of External Affairs and Community Relations in the Chancellor’s Office.
• Dr. McCracken and Ms. Whitfield were scheduled to visit DC, but flights were cancelled due to the weather. This trip is rescheduled for March. The purpose is to visit ARC and the Small Business Administration to discuss projects.

Appalachian State University Internationalization Strategic Plan: 2010-2015. A subcommittee of the International Education Council, chaired by Drs. Jesse Lutabingwa and Renee Scherlen, drafted a strategic plan for ASU. Feedback is sought from across campus. This document is addressing UNC Tomorrow’s directive to prepare for global challenges. ASU participated in a laboratory collaborative of institutions engaged in an 18-month self-study and external review of internationalization. Once goals are achieved, there will be continued and sustained activity.

Of particular interest to the URC is Priority #2 Increase International Research and Faculty Development Activities.
• There are many areas that can be improved and grown, but there are also many of which others are not aware. This plan hopes to identify partner institutions, connections, and formal relationships to open options to others in the five targeted research clusters: environment, energy, health, Appalachian culture and heritage, and teacher effectiveness.
• Increase the number and funding level of the Board of Trustees international research grants in the five targeted research clusters.
• Increase collaboration with foreign scholars. The Appalachian culture and heritage is comparable to Celtic and rural mountain cultures.
• Establish funding for an International Researcher-In-Residence program. Bring scholars and international/diverse students to ASU.
• Create a Science Abroad Task Force. There are export control issues to address when dealing with the sciences.
• Engage in research activities other than presenting at conferences. For example, present non-conference research seminars with colleagues in foreign countries; work through institutions that have established relationships with ASU; teach abroad and conduct research outside of the classroom. There are other models of information sharing not embedded in formal conferences.

Discussion of the Strategic Plan. (Answers provided by Dr. Scherlen unless otherwise indicated.)
Q: Faculty build relationships with peers/colleagues elsewhere. These relationships are not structured. It appears that if research is not conducted in a priority area or under the structure discussed in the plan, then there would be less support than before. (Bolt)
A: This is consistently encountered. The International Education Council is attempting to focus, as a whole, on institutionalization rather than entrepreneurial activities.

Q: The entrepreneurial model does not fit into this plan. If this is not valued, let the document state this. (Hageman)
A: If you are entrepreneurial, do it! Personal research doesn’t always support other disciplines. ASU has historically had individual connections, but this plan focuses on
expanding the structure and network in place, and harmonizing the structure with existing efforts. Researchers can still conduct their own research.

Q: Entrepreneurial faculty raise the profile of the institution. This plan should acknowledge this or recognize these contributions. (Bolt)
A: A committee was formed to start scientists talking about international activities. The committee asked for an inventory of 1) who was doing what; 2) what do they need; and 3) how do we make more of them? The example given was Dr. Gray going to Chile for astronomy research. This is his area of interest: although more may not jump into that particular program, perhaps students could go to Chile. Relationships may help faculty make connections for students. (Sargent Jones)

Q: This document does not recognize individuals. Include “new and institutionalized activities” or existing activities that can expand into international efforts. (Hageman)
A: This plan documents a strategic priority. (Scherlen) The committee intended to begin with what people are currently doing. (Sargent Jones)

There was agreement that some “don’t want to be institutionalized,” but are still a benefit to the university. (Bolt) Whereas some may want to work on their own, their efforts should not be marginalized. (Gregory)
A: This document is intended to include more people, be sustainable over time, and link to institutions and partners. Activities should not depend on one individual. The more institutionalized a relationship is, the more it should persist over time. (Scherlen)

Although some wish to be left alone, give them access to resources and allow them to take advantage and “beef-up” what they are doing. (Dickinson)
A: The document is not directed to new faculty, but to expand what others are doing now. Any institution with limited resources will have to make choices; the University wants to prioritize these targeted areas and reinforce these cluster areas. (Scherlen)

This document infers a perception that if activities are not in these targeted areas, it is not perceived as relevant. Can a statement be put in the strategic plan? (Hageman)
A: Yes, this can be done. Would someone give the appropriate wording?

Q: Are international efforts, such as Fulbrights, acknowledged? (Bolt)
A: Yes, this is addressed in faculty development activities under Initiative 2: Promote and Support International Faculty Development Activities.

Q: Is ASU trying to track those who are doing research? (Losardo)
A: The intent is to enhance campus communication by providing a portal to list activities and people.

Q: Institutions tend to value priority by what is budgeted; if not in the budget, then it has low priority. Some might not feel valued because there is no access to resources.
A. There are variations across university. Clusters in the College of Business have their own funding sources for internationalization. These would continue. An alternate argument is that ASU can choose to prioritize something different. The Executive Council will review all feedback.

The plan is to open up activities so that the activity doesn’t stop when one person leaves ASU. For example, there are four universities that ASU has institutional partnerships with for research in Africa. ASU has these connections and can foster research for faculty.

Dr. Frantz asked that Dr. Scherlen address how the selection of clusters were chosen. It was noted that Amy Roberts was a member of the subcommittee looking at research for the strategic plan for the university as a whole. The committee chose clusters because of the masses in place of people doing things that can be built around. (Frantz)

Q: Is there a communication activity to track researchers? (Losardo)
A: Yes, Priority 5: Enhance campus and community communication. Activities have included creating a web page about international funding opportunities (see http://www.orsp.appstate.edu/funding/external/international.html), hosting an international research and scholarship fair, strengthening the “World at Appalachian” web page, and establishing an International Resource Center.

Q: What is Activity 4 to establish the International Resource Center? (Losardo)
A: The ability to have a searchable database where people can find information about teaching, research, and service. This database could be accessible to the community at large – a UNC Tomorrow objective. There isn’t much awareness across the University about what is taking place. Who would maintain the database is a future issue.

TracDat could track this (Johnson) or data could be extracted from Annual Reports (Taubman). Several colleges are using digital measures. (Bolt)
A: Pete Wachs is working with TracDat to make sure it can be accessed.

Faculty don’t care about political borders but about the places where they study. Include a statement to acknowledge these environments and ecosystems. A draft statement will be given to Dr. Scherlen stating that the goal of the document is to form institutional relationships but that individual international activities are valued. (Hageman) This statement could be included in the preface. Build on collaborations that exist to recognize the role of the entrepreneurial nature of research. (Bolt)

There is frustration that sometimes “arranged marriages” don’t work well; relationships can be too contrived. Dr. Lutabingwa understands that all research activities won’t fit into clusters, and that faculty will continue to pursue their own areas of interest. These faculty can, however, take advantage of workshops, teaching, and resources. We need the inventory list to know who we can call on in specific areas. (Sargent Jones)
Dr. Scherlen asked that specific comments be sent to her (scherlenrg@appstate.edu). These comments will be shared with Dr. Lutabingwa and summarized for the Executive Council. Feedback is encouraged on any section. Appreciation was expressed to the URC. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Scherlen.

Details to be worked out include who will maintain a database. It would be helpful to establish a template for international research agreements; Patricia Cornette in Sponsored Programs could assist with this. Export Controls need to be addressed. (Taubman) These types of details remain to be worked out. (Sargent Jones). A standardized protocol, however, would help to catch these things. (Scherlen)

Dr. Scherlen reminded all that Dr. Lutabingwa has an open door policy.

Motion to adjourn (Johnson) and second (Roberts). Meeting adjourned.