

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COUNCIL
Minutes for 21 April 2009
Academic Affairs Conference Room

Present: Megan Johnson, Hal Keiner, David Dickinson, Leslie Sargent Jones, Alan Utter, Pollyanne Frantz, Meredith Curcio, Edelma Huntley, Cindy McGaha, April Everhart, Liz Rose, Steven Hageman, Lisa Curtin

Absent: Susan McCracken, Susan Staub, Alecia Jackson

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. Announcements

- URC was able to fund those PIs who were waitlisted per the 21 March URC meeting. They include:
 - Susan Edwards (BIO)
 - Martin Root (FCS)
 - Thomas Whyte (ANT)
- When the initial Office of State Budget Management memo was released, URC funding was frozen. Temporarily, per Chancellor Peacock's letter, URC funds are available.
- There is still uncertainty as to what to do with travelers for the months of June and July.
- Indirect Funds
 - Indirect funds for this year
 - \$600,000 available
 - Budget affected by:
 - Large grant in trouble
 - Start up for Kannapolis
 - Staff salaries

2. Discussion: URC Membership

- The URC needs a wider representation.
 - The Graduate Council could be used as a model for organizing the URC.
 - It would be a good idea to include representatives from different units because over 40% of the funding that the URC uses for faculty research is from PIs who are not faculty.
 - URC should have standing committees
 - Fixed-term members will be appointed to represent the colleges and units. The deans will make their recommendation to the CRO.
 - Continuing term members would not serve on standing committees.

- This summer, the URC needs to revise the application for funding.
- Discussion of possible bias in funding decisions: Some think that standing committees will reduce bias, while others believe that if committees are smaller, there would be more of a chance of knowing the applicant.
 - Liz Rose spoke on behalf of the Arts. She thinks the “new system” would be embraced by the Arts, as she feels there have been times where they have been “misunderstood.”
 - The new process would be similar to the NIH study section model.
 - How would the Council score the proposals—top 5 in each group?
 - The URC has to agree on criteria.
 - New policies need to be created.
 - What are the criteria? There need to be basic criteria before moving into next year.
 - Final reports must be submitted. If there is no final report, Council members will not see the proposal.
 - Everything needs to be on the website so all questions can be clarified.
 - URC needs to help PIs move forward to external grants by making the process similar to external processes.
 - Federal guidelines and forms need to be examined.
- ARRA: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
 - There is a university website with ARRA information.
 - Recovery.gov is the Federal website.
 - Grants Resource Center has an ARRA database.
 - ARRA funding still has to go through RFPs.
 - The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs wants to educate faculty and inform them of the funding opportunities available.

3. Meeting adjourned at 5:00