

University Research Committee

Minutes of meeting on September 11, 2008

Present: Arvin, Shelley (Secretary); Chandrasekaran, Aruna; Dutta, Prodip; Julie Fine (Faculty Senate *ex officio*); Fitch, Richard (Chair); Klarner, Carl; Miller, Marsha; Nesser, Tom; Polizzi, David; Underwood, Dawn (Sponsored Programs *ex officio*).

Absent: Phillips, Shawn

Location: Science Building, Rm 054

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 pm.

The following handouts were distributed:

- Memo titled *Changes to URC grant guidelines* from URC Chair Richard Fitch to Dawn Underwood of Office of Sponsored Programs
- Minutes of April 4, 2008
- [University Research Committee Information and Grant Application Package](#)
- Charges to the University Research Committee by the Faculty Senate

STANDING COMMITTEE CHARGES 2008-2009

University Research (URC)

1. *Recommend nominee to Theodore Dreiser Award Committee (On-going charge).*
2. *Review proposals to support faculty research and scholarship (On-going charge).*
3. *Report on how URC guidelines relate to collaborative proposals (New charge).*
4. *Review funding guidelines for inconsistencies and also the rubric for evaluations of proposals; initiate changes as appropriate (URC recommended new charge).*
5. *Make recommendations regarding the domain of responsibility held by URC. For instance, are the duties too narrow to warrant status as a separate committee or should these responsibilities be tasked to a standing committee with broader responsibilities? (NOTE: A SIMILAR CHARGE IS BEING DEVELOPED FOR EVERY STANDING COMMITTEE).*

Liaison: Julia Fine

The minutes of April 4, 2008 were approved (7-0-0) with the following revisions:

- Add the following line to the second paragraph.
He suggested both a revision to the assessment worksheet and the method of aggregating scores.
- Strike the word *only* from the fourth paragraph.

Elections were held with the following unanimous results:

Chair – Carl Klarner

Secretary – Shelley Arvin

Chair Klarner asked that outgoing Chair Richard Fitch chair this meeting.

David Polizzi volunteered to be the URC representative to the Thomas Dreiser Award Committee.

The deadline for University Research Committee (URC) Round 1 grant applications is the first Monday in October (Oct. 6).

The possibility of posting online information about proposals accepted in the past was discussed. It was suggested that perhaps the title, amount awarded, and the principal investigator (PI) could be posted. Three years of awarded proposals could be posted on the Web site. Underwood said that when the Office of Sponsored Programs is notified by letter of the proposals awarded by URC in a semester, a note could be included asking that they update the Web site.

Charge #5 to "make recommendations regarding the domain of responsibility held by URC" was addressed. Discussions were held over the potential overlap of duties with other committees, the workload of committees, and the perception of departments regarding the process of URC funding.

Charge #3 "Report on how URC guidelines relate to collaborative proposals" was addressed. The merits of recording co-principal investigators for proposals and of encouraging collaborations were discussed.

URC members were asked to read and think about Charge #4 *"Review funding guidelines for inconsistencies and also the rubric for evaluations of proposals; initiate changes as appropriate"* for discussion at the next meeting. Scoring challenges were discussed. It was suggested that scoring be changed in that members submit one score per proposal, which may facilitate statistical analysis.

The Office of Sponsored Programs reported that URC funds for the Fall cycle total about \$20,000, because it is not known if all expenses have been paid when a total is requested.

Concerns regarding funding of reprints and page charges were discussed. Funding is more challenging due to open access publishing practices. The current allocation set aside to cover page charges and reprints is \$2,000.

Member Shawn Phillips was absent because he is unavailable on Thursdays. Another meeting time may need to be considered.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.