

University Research Council

February 16, 2021

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Approved

Present: Maryam Ahmed, Becki Battista, Elaine Berry, Erin Bouldin, Megen Culpepper, Beth Fiske, Karen Fletcher, Soo Goh, Jennifer Gray, Christine Hendren, Marie Hoepfl, Christopher Holden, Charna Howson, Alicia Jackson, Ece Karatan, Gary McCullough, Mina Min, Pam Mitchem, Deb Paxton, Abhi Ramalingam

Excused: Twila Wingrove

Absent: Andrew Caldwell

Staff: Kate Hoffman

➤ Ece Karatan calls the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

New Business

Motion (Paxton, Hendren) to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2021 meeting. VOTE: 18 – Approved, 0 - Opposed, 2 - Abstained. Motion passes.

Feedback for Bridge Strategic Plan - URC feedback for the bridge strategic plan was appreciated, generated a lot of discussion, and some of it was incorporated into the bridge plan. Goal is to continue to provide input into the next strategic plan.

Today's discussion:

What would it look like to feel 100% supported in terms of research, scholarship, and creative activity at AppState? Let's visualize the University that we want. Focus on the big picture and from a positive place. Faculty members will be placed in groups and at least three colleges will be represented in each group. A shared document has been created in the Google Shared Drive to facilitate notes. Pick someone within the group to be a scribe. Talk about what works currently and what is needed. Create a wish list. Start adding rows or add bulleted points. Sky is the limit but we do need to put some boundaries around our visioning exercise. We need to remember 1) App State is a large rural university, 2) we need to maintain our excellence in teaching and access, and 3)

AppState is not trying to be R1 or NCState or Chapel Hill. There will be four groups total: Administrative, Increased Funds for Scholarship, Increased Time for Scholarship, and Promotion of a Culture of Increased Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities. At the end of the meeting, each group will share their ideas with all of us.

Group I - [Increased Time for Scholarship](#)

Allow OCSAs for all pre-tenure faculty eligibility regardless of college affiliation. The current preference is for tenured faculty. A better definition of clinical faculty is needed. Course release for all colleges. Start-up support for all colleges. The PREPARE program expansion. Off campus retreat and wrote no distractions. Additional grant support positions in sponsored programs (to focus on grantsmanship and not just grant management). RECAP a more informal venue to find shared interests.

Group II - [Increased Funds for Scholarship](#)

Disparity between colleges and departments in how funds are allocated. Increase URC funding amount as total number of faculty increases. Allow adjunct faculty lecturers to qualify for research support. Give each faculty member \$10,000 to spend on anything research related. Extend course buyouts by one class to cover a full academic year to complete projects that are not related to grants or an OCSA. Funding support for post-tenure review, promotion, and tenure. Provide smaller funding amounts for emergency funding to finish projects.

Group III - [Promotion of a Culture of Increased Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities](#)

Acknowledge the products produced with the annual review, promotion, and tenure. Promotion and tenure review is rigid. It needs to focus on the product. University Communications and newspaper press recognition must include different types of scholarship as this will help recruit students. What is the structure of University Communications? Resolve the mixed messages regarding priority scholarship vs teaching. Promote a synergy between the two. Clarify this in the University's mission. Develop clear OSCA expectations. Fix the inconsistencies in funding across departments. Create a specific Google Calendar for campus wide research events and departmental seminars.

Group IV - [Administrative](#)

Adjournment at 5:28 pm.