

University Research Council

October 11, 2022

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Approved

Present: Becki Battista, Nicholas Cline, Elaine Berry, Megen Culpepper, Karen Fletcher, Reza Foroughi, Adam Hege, Marie Hoepfl, Charna Howson, Ece Karatan, Ellen Lamont, Garry McCullough, Andres Tellez, Matthew Thomas-Reid, Jenny Tonsing, Heather Waldroup, John Wiswell, Jason Xiong

Excused: Christine Hendren

Absent: Beth Campbell, Ann Kaplan

Staff: Kate Hoffman

Guests:

- Ece Karatan calls the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.
- Motion 1 (Culpepper, McCullough) to approve the minutes from the [April 26, 2022 meeting](#). VOTE: 12 Approved, 0 Opposed, 6 Abstained. Motion passes.
- Motion 2 (Waldroup, Lamont) to approve the amended minutes from the [September 20, 2022 meeting](#). VOTE: 14 Approved, 0 Opposed, 4 Abstained. Motion passes.

Introductions

- Faculty Members
 - Adam Hege, Public Health, Health and Exercise Science

Old Business

Introduction and State of Research Scholarship and Creative Activities Landscape at App

Ece shares screen with [URC Introduction 2022-23](#) and continues the presentation from the last meeting. The previous year's four working groups consist of URC grant structure, grant management, daylighting URC and handbook changes, and communication.

Some of the recommendations from the URC grant structure and grant management working groups have been implemented, such as a more comprehensive URC reviewer guide, and specifying URC roles and expectations. The daylighting group discussed a broader visibility for the URC beyond the grant competition. What shall the URC be? This group also came up with a new description that correctly captures the role and make up of the URC. Information on the URC within the Faculty Handbook is incorrect and outdated and the working group recommends the changes. The communication group discussed how to best communicate research services and activities to the rest of campus.

The plans for the year ahead include to finalize the handbook changes, work on the strategic plan, codify URC roles and responsibilities, and review the website for recommendations. Additionally, discussions regarding the Research and Creative Activities Celebration will be held during the spring semester. Any questions?

Ece refers to a chart of external proposals and award dollar values from the last ten years. It shows cyclical trends. The last two fiscal years have hit the highest dollar values of proposals (\$79 million in FY21 and \$73 million in FY22). Let's hope this continues. Fiscal year 2021 drew \$37 million containing a \$12 million award over a 5 year span. This past year of \$19.5 million generated a more true capture of campus capacity. Questions?

The Carnegie classification information is being shared based on conversations Ece has had where the classification has been misunderstood. There are different levels of basic classification. App State's current classification is M1: Master's Colleges and Universities, Larger programs (awarding more than 50 master's degrees and less than 20 doctorate degrees). Moving to a R2: Doctoral Universities requires awarding at least twenty research doctorate degrees and \$5 million in research expenditures. An example of a R1 is Chapel Hill. Doctoral/ Professional Universities: D/PU: are for institutions that are below twenty in research/scholarship doctoral degrees, but award at least thirty professional practice doctoral degrees in at least 2 programs. Upon Carnegie's review, they make the determination. Research expenditures are calculated by adding expenditures from external grants and contracts for research and development plus institutional research and development expenses. App State has had \$4.9 million and

\$4.6 million awarded, and thirteen and twelve research/scholarship doctoral degrees over the past two years.

Questions/ Comments

Are these still our current peer institutions:

<https://irap.appstate.edu/strategic-analytics-institutional-research/institutional-research/peer-institutions/>? Yes.

Is there any benefit in changing our classification? It depends on who you ask. When moving to an R2 funding model, it is unclear how much additional funding moving it would bring.

Can App State achieve and maintain one of the two doctoral program classifications (R2 or D/PU) with existing doctoral programs? We're far away from the D/PU designation since we only award only one professional doctorate degree (Psy. D). The full capacity of this program is average of six doctoral degrees per year.

If there is University interest, is there any conversation about expanding doctoral personnel and addressing that it's already at capacity? Many faculty teach and mentor in the doctoral program as a service without being specifically assigned to the doctoral program. A change in classification might bring additional personnel lines. This does impact the program. Adjuncts are needed because others need to teach in the doctoral program.

Ece says there are conversations about providing extra support for the EdD program due to the demand for the program. No decision by the administration has been made to try for R2. But, we may get there organically. The doctoral program has high demand which will likely lead to higher numbers of research doctorate degrees and research expenditures (both from grants and contracts and institutional expenditures) are increasing.

New Business

Strategic Plan for Research and Creative Activities

The Office of Research is tasked with creating a research and creative activities strategic plan. Last year's collaboration with Gabe Casale, member and subcommittee chair of the University Planning and Priorities Council - Strategic Direction #2 (Research, Scholarship, Creative Activities), will continue this year. Discussions will be held in Zoom breakout sessions at future meetings. An external consultant and other stakeholders will be included in this process. Campus feedback that has been collected over the past four years during the development of the campus strategic plan will be included. Engaging URC members in this process will help grow campus research and creative endeavors in an intentional and thoughtful manner.

Review Role of URC and Member Expectations

The [Review Role of URC and Member Expectations](#) document is in draft form. New members may not know what URC does other than to review grants. This document builds upon four years of discussions.

❖ Participate in Ad Hoc Projects

These are advisory groups to VPR. This is an opportunity to be a voice for the research enterprise on campus. What are your questions, comments, feedback?

Question

What are the ad hoc projects? Strategic plan, faculty handbook changes, URC website, and research policies.

❖ Review URC Grants

❖ Participate in the Annual Research and Creative Activities at Appalachian Event

This event is in its fourth year. It integrates the URC membership with celebrating research on campus. Volunteers are moderating sessions. Thank you for moderating.

❖ Attend Meetings

Please let Kate Hoffman know if you are unable to attend a meeting and advise the representative who will be attending the meeting upon your behalf.

❖ Disseminate Information

What is the format of this information and what do we need to send to colleagues? Each meeting Karen, Megen, and Ece will compile information to send to your departments or units regarding who you are representing. Please send out the document. The document will contain snippets of information relevant to the entire campus. Each member will need to determine the best way to transmit this information to your colleagues. Is there a contact or listserv that's already in place? Suggestions? Feedback will allow for promotion of interdisciplinary research directly and prompt collaboration too. The URC will discuss a way to facilitate this at a future meeting. The URC membership is a group that is involved with so many disciplines. URC involvement is crucial with research forums as well. The next research forum topic will be diversity, equity, and inclusion.

❖ [Review Handbook Language](#)

The [draft document](#) is a result of last year's daylighting working group. The left green column contains the current handbook language and the right purple column purple has the suggested edits. The URC is a conduit between researchers and administration. The membership helps navigate policies and make recommendations for improvements. The third green row needs further elaboration input into the forth purple row.

Ece a master's level teaches three and three classes over a semester. This sounds contradictory to the policy. Use language such as advocate for programs to support a reduced teaching load? Intermittent teaching release? Move the advocating teaching release or temporary release to the end of the list? Ece removed support faculty publications because it is not relevant to the URC. John Wisell reminds the membership that Cambridge and Wiley have an Open Source selection option.

Topics such as “the use of human subjects, care and protection of research animals, and

scholarly ethics activity” and to follow state and federal regulations are not the URC’s responsibility and have been removed. Ece thanks members for their suggestions. Please add comments to the document prior to the next meeting. When the suggested revisions are ready, Ece will bring them to the Faculty Senate to be adjusted in the handbook.

Adjournment (Wiswell, Thomas-Reid) at 5:28 pm.