

Appalachian State University  
[University Research Council](#)

September 19, 2023

Approved Minutes

Meeting time: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Christine convenes meeting at 4:02 pm

**Present:** William Armstrong, Becki Battista, Elaine Berry, Karen Fletcher, Reza Foroughi, Dennis Guignet, Adam Hege, Christine Hendren, Charna Howson, Ann Kaplan, Ellen Lamont, Shanté Mathes, Gary McCullough, Andres Tellez, Jenny Tonsing, John Wiswell, Twila Wingrove

**Excused:** Ross Gosky, Heather Waldroup

**Staff:** Kate Hoffman, 18 years on campus, 10 years on URC

**Guests:** Gabe Casale 12 year, URC past 3 years

### Approval of Minutes

1. April 18, 2023 (Wiswell, Howson) [meeting minutes](#) approved unanimously

### New Business

0. Administrivia - Quorum check and minutes approval - Kate Hoffman

1. Introductions - Names, Departments, Length of App State time and URC Service - Christine

➤ Faculty Members

- William Armstrong, Geological and Environmental Sciences, Assistant Professor, 1st year on the URC
- Nicholas Cline, School of Music, Assistant Professor of Music Composition and Theory, 2nd year on the URC
- Reza Foroughi, Sustainable Technology & the Built Environment, Assistant Professor, 2nd year on the URC
- Dennis Guignet, Economics, Assistant Professor, 1st year on the URC
- Adam Hege, Public Health, Associate Professor, URC Faculty Lead, 3rd year on the URC
- Ann Kaplan, Interdisciplinary Studies, Associate Professor, affiliated with departments of Art, Global Studies, and Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies,

3rd year on the URC

- Ellen Lamont, Sociology, Associate Professor, 2nd year on the URC
- Jennifer McGee, Leadership and Educational Studies, Professor, 1st year on the URC
- Andres Tellez, Applied Design, Assistant Professor, 2nd year on the URC
- Chauntee Thrill, Assistant Professor, Counseling, Family Therapy, and Higher Education, 1st year on the URC
- Jenny Tonsing, Social Work, Assistant Professor, 3rd year on the URC
- John Wiswell, Belk Library, Librarian, assists College of Health Sciences and others, research on user experience, 3rd year on the URC

➤ Administrative Members

- Becki Battista, Director, Office of Student Research, Health Science Professor, 10th year on the URC
- Elaine Berry, Director, Contracts and Grants Accounting, 3rd year on the URC
- Gabe Casale, ORI Faculty Fellow, Office of Research and Innovation, Professor, Geological and Environmental Sciences, previously served as a faculty URC member, 1st year as an administrative URC member
- Karen Fletcher, Director, Grants Resources and Services, Office of Research and Innovation, 9th year on the URC
- Charna Howson, Director, Sponsored Programs, Office of Research and Innovation, 13th year on the URC
- Christine Hendren, Interim Vice Provost, Office of Research and Innovation, URC chair, 3 year on the URC, 1st year as chair
- Shanté Mathes, Director, Research Protections, Office of Research and Innovation, 1st year on the URC
- Gary McCullough, Associate Dean, Health Sciences, 10th year on the URC
- Twila Wingrove, Director, Research Design and Analysis, Office of Research and Innovation, Professor, Psychology, 5th year on the URC

➤ Staff

- Kate Hoffman, Business Officer, Office of Research and Innovation, 10th year with the URC

2. Mission of URC - Karen [URC Orientation guide](#)

3. App State RSCA Strategic Plan, Overview and [RfN Process](#) - Gabe Casale

The RSCA Strategic Plan is approved as of June 2023, but has not been released campus wide yet..The implementation plan of this strategic plan has been approved since August 2023.

The RSCA Implementation Committee looks for nominations of areas of excellence from within three nomination area categories, emerging and existing, future opportunities, and distinction. Self-nominations of areas of excellence are accepted. What are the strengths of campus that can be communicated to external entities? All inclusive nominations allow for an avenue to nominate one's own interests. Are there people who feel that they do not fit into any of the three categories? Do you not see yourself representative? The request for nominations is open ended.

Utilizing this as a guide to identifying niches for direct resources as applicable to University and UNC System wide strategic plans as well as to achieve national and international providence. The nominations will be vetted to look for overlaps in order to bring people together and combine resources. Nominations are for subject areas and ideas, not humans. There will be context added. This is developing the research identity of the University.

An additional area is being added: core resources and infrastructure. Feel free to edit and comment on [this document](#). The tight deadline is one week for collecting nominations and feedback.

4. [Interactive group activity](#) - Who's in the "room"? - Christine Hendren

What are the hot topics of interest to you in research - personally and that you see as promising, interesting areas? Drag & drop.

Where do you think you are on a spectrum of research experience? I am new to research funded research but interested or I have successfully competed for research funds and led projects.

5. New [URC website](#), member [roles and responsibilities](#) - Karen Fletcher

URC website has been updated based on feedback from URC members.

6. Liaison letters info - Adam Hege

Liaison email templates with URC information have been developed for department chairs to disseminate. Feedback has been collected that the information is not being disseminated by some chairs and members are sending out the emails. What is the best way to reach out to campus? Please share your ideas on how to engage with campus regarding who we are and the service and representation that we provide.

7. 2022-2023 URC Activity Summary - Karen Fletcher [2022-23 URC activity summary](#)

## Announcements

- Successful [Research and Creative Activity at Appalachian Event](#), August 2023
- URC Fall grant cycle - Each URC faculty member is on a URC review panel to review URC grants. Please write "Recuse" next to your name below if you are applying to the URC and therefore cannot review the grants this cycle. Please write "Confirm" next to

your name if you are not applying for a URC grant and to confirm that you are on a panel. More details on review responsibilities and chair responsibilities will be forthcoming.

Adjournment at 5:00 pm