

**University Research Council**

**April 20, 2021**

**4:00 p.m. – 6:00 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, Alecia Jackson, Ece Karatan, Mina Min, Pam Mitchem, Deb Paxton, Abhi Ramalingam

**Excused:** Andrew Caldwell, Gary McCullough, Twila Wingrove

**Absent:**

**Staff:** Kate Hoffman

- Karen Fletcher calls the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

**New Business**

- Motion (Hendren, Holden) to approve the [minutes from the March 16, 2021](#) meeting.  
VOTE: 15 – Approved, 0 - Opposed, 0 - Abstained. Motion passes.

**URC Spring 2021 Grants Funding Recommendations - Karen Fletcher & Ece Karatan**

Karen Fletcher shares her screen with the confidential funding recommendations spreadsheet and thanks members for reviewing and scoring these. Funding all the green shaded rows that reflect the highest scores amounts to \$39,504 for nine awards. It is possible to fund two additional applications. Any questions or thoughts? If there are none, Karen asks for a motion.

Motion (Goh, Gray) to fund the nine applications in the amount of \$39,504 with an additional two projects keeping the total recommended cost below \$50,000.

VOTE: 14 – Approved, 0 - Opposed, 1 - Abstained. Motion passes.

Light yellow on the spreadsheet indicates the applications next in line to be funded. If the membership is in agreement, those applications that scored a ten and above with a

recommendation of “definitely” or a “maybe fund” rating could be funded while keeping all awards within the \$50,000 limit.

Polls are conducted and two additional applications are recommended to be funded for an additional \$8,661. The total award funding package is \$48,165.

Award recommendations from the Arts & Humanities review panel:

- Caldwell, Andrew (Art) - \$4,976 - “Fearful Fascination - A Visual Exploration of Mixed-race Identity in Appalachia ”
- Tu, Xiaofei (Languages, Literatures, and Cultures) - \$3,141 - “Women’s Autobiographies and 20th Century Chinese Revolution (1921-1949)”

Award recommendations from the Social Sciences, Business and Education review panel:

- Burke, Brian (Sustainable Development) - \$3,685 - “Afro-Indigenous Approaches to Post-Disaster Reconstruction, Sustainable Development, and Climate Resilience”
- Levy, Denise (College of Health Sciences) - \$5,000 - “LGBTQ+ People's Experiences in the COVID-19 Pandemic”
- Ramalingam, Abhijit (Economics) - \$5,000 – “Absolute vs. Relative Poverty: An Online Experiment with a Representative Population”
- Wingrove, Twila (Psychology) - \$4,002 – “Does the Influence of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Depend on their Gender?”

Award recommendations from the STEM review panel:

- Carmichael, Sarah (Geological & Environmental Sciences) - \$3,592 – “Can Trace Elements Detect Mass Extinction Events in Different Paleoenvironments?”
- Culpepper, Megen (Chemistry & Fermentation Sciences) - \$4,995 - “Determining the Substrate Specificity of a Putative DMS Monooxygenase from *Arthrobacter Globiformis*”
- Oguntoyinbo, Folarin (Chemistry & Fermentation Sciences) - \$5,000 - “Co-fermentation for Improving the Oenological Characteristics and Sensorial Profiles of North Carolina Wine”

Award recommendations from the Health review panel:

- Fasczewski, Kimberly (Health & Exercise Science) - \$3,776 - “Multiple Sclerosis Physical Activity Charity Event Study (MS PACES): A Pilot Study using Behavioral Economics to Understand Motivation for Physical Activity”

- Harmon, Brook (Nutrition & Healthcare Management) – \$4,998 – “Validating the Caring Factor Survey-Caring for Self with Clergy”

## **Old Business**

Three of the four working groups ([Increased Time for Scholarship](#), [Increased Funds for Scholarship](#), and [Promotional of a Culture of Increased Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity](#)) convene in a breakout room and continue discussions regarding their vision to elevate three important priorities. The [Administrative](#) Group continues to narrow down its list of over thirty priorities. The groups are to focus on the most achievable and most impactful priorities.

Upon the ending of the breakout sessions, Ece leads the discussion. How do we affect change and make it resonate with the deans?

Megen Culpepper comments that promoting research is needed to retain faculty. These ideas need to be strengthened. This concurs with the summary within [March’s meeting minutes](#). Maryam Ahmed agrees that there needs to be consistency in how it is presented to deans and how it aligns with the strategic plan.

Christine Hendren comments that using PowerPoint makes it a visual presentation method. Beth Fiske suggests using specific and personal career experiences on how it directly affects faculty. This will make an impression. Becki Battista adds that a video presentation where people are speaking or an invitation to a URC meeting is where we can tell our stories. In-person meetings get things done.

Karen Fletcher asks if it is helpful to have University Communications speak at a URC meeting so that both the URC and UComm could learn about each other’s communication flow and resources. Karen also asks whether the dollar amount of the URC grant should be revisited.

Beth Fiske notes that a cost benefit analysis is needed. Cost to do a search? Morale? Use comparisons with sister institutions of available funds and internal funding. If the value of dollars and cents is used, deans may be more responsive. Ece concurs that a cost analysis helps with finding solutions.

Ece relays that this work is an on-going process and advocacy from everyone is key.

Ece recognizes Pam Mitchem’s and Maryam Ahmed’s service to the URC as this is their last meeting.

Motion to adjourn. (Hoepfl, Ramalingam). Adjournment at 5:03 pm.