

University Research Council

September 21, 2021

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Approved

Present: Andrew Caldwell, Elaine Berry, Megen Culpepper, Karen Fletcher, Soo Goh, Adam Hege, Christine Hendren, Marie Hoepfl, Christopher Holden, Charna Howson, Alecia Jackson, Ece Karatan, Gary McCullough, Mina Min, Patricia Ortiz, Deb Paxton, Abhi Ramalingam, Jenny Tonsing, Heather Waldroup, John Wiswell, Twila Wingrove

Excused: Becki Battista, Rebecca Witter

Staff: Kate Hoffman

Guest: Gabe Casale

- Ece Karatan calls the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Gabe Casale will be leading a discussion on strategic plan strategic direction two. [April's unapproved minutes](#) will be voted on at the next meeting on October 19th.
- Karen Fletcher briefly summarizes the Fall grant competition schedule. The submission deadline is Tuesday, October 12. Katie Shoaf will be sending panel reviewer assignments. URC members may submit grants or be included in a colleague's grant. Let us know if you do submit one or if you will be working as part of a colleague's submission so that we can recuse you from a review panel. The InfoReady software system is used for reviewing the competition and training videos will be provided for the review process. Funding decisions are made at the November 16 meeting.

Introductions

- Faculty Members
 - Andrew Caldwell, Art, Commercial Photography (3rd year at URC)
 - Megen Culpepper, Chemistry and Fermentation Sciences (2nd year at URC)
 - Soo Goh, School of Music (2nd year at URC)
 - Adam Hege, Public Health, Health and Exercise Science (1st year at URC)
 - Christopher Holden, Psychology (2nd year at URC)

- Alecia Jackson, Doctoral Program and Leadership and Educational Studies (3rd year of URC term)
- Mina Min, Curriculum and Instruction (2nd year at URC)
- Patricia Ortiz, Languages, Literatures and Cultures (1st year at URC)
- Abi Ramalingam, Economics (3rd year at URC)
- Jenny Tonsing, Social Work (1st year at URC)
- John Wiswell, Library, Health Sciences Collections (1st year at URC)

➤ Administrative Members

- Elaine Berry, Director, Special Funds Accounting: post award financials, grant expenditures processing
- Karen Fletcher, Director, Grants Resources and Services: limited submission competitions and internal grant competitions (including the URC grant competition), professional development (writing grant proposals), finding funding
- Christine Hendren Director, Research Institute for Environment, Energy, and Economics: institute comprises of three centers: Appalachian Energy Center, Economic Research and Policy Analysis, and Southern Appalachian Environmental Research and Education, increase research regarding sustainability, multidisciplinary working groups and research grant assistance
- Marie Hoepfl, Associate Dean, Interim Dean, Graduate School: graduate research assistantships and mentoring programs
- Charna Howson, Director, Sponsored Programs: sponsored projects and contracts, material transfer, data use and confidentiality agreements
- Ece Karatan, Vice Provost for Research, Office of Research: URC chair, supports and facilitates research profile on campus
- Gary McCullough, Associate Dean, Health Sciences and Executive Director of IHHS (8th year at URC, 8th year at ASU) research in the college and grad program development, IHHS research and outreach, interprofessional clinic
- Deb Paxton, Director, Research Protections (year at URC, year at ASU) compliance ethics and integrity
- Heather Waldroup, Associate Dean, Honors College (year at URC, year at ASU) research mentor students in humanities and music thesis dept honors programs and building new programs assist with mentoring
- Twila Wingrove, Director, Research Design and Analysis, Psychology Professor (5th year at URC, 11th year at ASU) stats analysis and research design

➤ Staff

- Kate Hoffman, (8th year with URC) Executive Assistant, Office of Research:

meeting minutes

➤ Guest

- Gabe Casale - Chair, UPPC strategic direction 2 (Advancing Knowledge)

New Business

Introduction and Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities Landscape at App State - Ece Karatan

Ece shares her screen of the PowerPoint [URC Introduction 2021-22](#). The [URC website](#), [Shared Google Drive](#), [meeting plan schedule 2021-22](#), and [Orientation Guide](#) are meeting resources for this year. The [URC 2020-21 Summary of Activity](#) will assist as a continuation for this year's initiatives. Faculty members are elected for a three-year term by the Faculty Senate.

Administrative members are appointed by the vice provost for research. This body represents faculty input that is widely represented across campus and the administrative members touch everything that has to do with research on campus. It is exciting to have the representation look at it from every angle to provide input for the improvement of research and creative activities.

The role of URC is to provide unified feedback to enhance research and creative activities on campus and to review and recommend internal grant funding. In addition this academic year, the membership will provide changes (updates and corrections) to the URC section of the Faculty Handbook. During the Spring semester there will be breakout rooms as identification and exploration of URC roles, responsibilities, and research priorities continue, which include last year's priority areas of increased funding, increased time, and a promotion of research and creative activity culture.

Proposals and awards of sponsored projects over a ten year period are reviewed in the first chart. These are not just research dollars, but include instruction grants, student success, and public service. The submission and award amounts of 79 and 37 million dollars, respectively, for FY21 are the highest ever at AppState. What explains this spike of submission and award dollars? Can these amounts be reached every year for the awards received? Is this the current capacity? Probably not. Factors in 2020 and 2021 affected these numbers. There is a 4 million dollar award of the previous year posting in this year's total. Also, all 5 years of funding for a very large multi-year grant award is received all at once in FY21. These two factors artificially inflate the

award numbers. The second line chart corrects for these factors noting a 20 million dollar research capacity profile. This is still the highest in App State history and more in line with our current capacity.

UPPC Strategic Direction 2 (Advancing Knowledge through Creativity, Research, and Innovation) - Ece Karatan and Gabe Casale

Appalachian's previous strategic plan covers years 2014 to 2019. The recent unified bridge strategic plan is for years 2020 and 2021. Now efforts are beginning to draft the next 5 year strategic plan. Gabe Casale is part of UPPC and chairs the subcommittee for strategic direction two: advancing knowledge. Gabe has specific questions for the URC membership.

- 1) What does the strategic plan direction 2 title, *Advancing Knowledge and Addressing the Challenges of Our Region, State, and World through Creativity, Research, and Innovation*, mean to you? Visualize where ASU wants to be in 5 years. Identify critical goals and action items to get us there. The plan is a way to set funding priorities and allocate resources in addition to being a vision, and a road map. Large funding requested must be tied to the strategic plan.

Is the title accurate? What terminology encompasses the scholarly output of faculty members on campus? Does research describe it? What about creative activities, scholarship? Research Scholarship and Creative Activity is suggested and a discussion ensues regarding if scholarship is all encompassing for campus. There is concern that in the performing arts for faculty who perform, scholarship might be a term less understood as a research activity beyond academia. Who is the audience for this plan? Only academia? Membership expresses interest in having terms in addition to research included in the title (innovation, creativity, scholarship).

Twila Wingrove asks for some clarification with the first part of the title: "Advancing knowledge and addressing the challenges of our region, state, and world." If the goal is to do both, then shouldn't practice that impacts communities also be included (e.g., training

teachers and therapists and musicians)? On the other hand, if this goal is supposed to be the one part of the strategic plan that focuses solely on scholarship/research, then tying "advancing knowledge" to the broader goal of "addressing challenges" might weaken the focus on research a bit. She suggested "Advancing knowledge *to* address the challenges," so it is still clear that research/scholarship is the focus of this goal. Other members offered similar suggestions, which were added to the Google Doc. Additional members ask: is the title trying to do too much? Are there two things the title is trying to address? Is the title so broad that it loses focus on scholarly activity? Are translating knowledge, transformational use of knowledge, or applying knowledge better terms?

- 2) What is a dream grant/faculty/acquisition/staff support position/etc. that would propel your research program, and is that acquisition covered in the "goals"? If you receive a million dollar grant, do the below goals cover all of the expenditures?

Goals/Initiatives:

Individual faculty support: Gennard & Gabe

- Increase time for faculty research and creative activity
- Support early career faculty research/career development specifically with respect to research
- Faculty lines...cluster hires?

Infrastructure and resources: Gabe & Sherone

- Increase external/internal resources for research and creative activity (state and F&A)
- Promote dissemination of research products
- Physical and organizational infrastructure to support
- Develop and maintain facilities for faculty research
- Streamline access to external resources (library)

Community connections and collaboration: Ece & Lori

- Build relationships that foster engagement and investment by private industry in University led research (Private sector buy-in)
- Address real world problems through innovative research and scholarly activities
- Foster interdisciplinary collaboration (organizational infrastructure for collaboration).

- Advancing knowledge and finding solutions to real world problems.

Student engagement: Becki & Doris

- Engage undergraduate students in research, scholarship, and creativity and recruitment of excellent graduate students (expanding, supporting, engaging, growing)
(build in competitive funding for grad students - supporting)

Twila Wingrove states that this covers it. Wishes include dedicated research space, graduate students wage and tuition support, and more release time.

Karen Fletcher asks if it covers programming, such as a mentor program. Is it covered here? Gabe replies, yes, it is covered in the infrastructure and resources. This section is inspired by library expenditures for databases.

John Wiswell says that although the library is well positioned right now, the loss of some highly skilled librarians creates a need for experienced people. Also many requests from faculty and students want the complete Taylor and Francis package access in addition to the entire Nature package.

Christine Hendren asks if community insinuates local or regional. Gabe replies that it means both, but you might be in a better position to answer that question.

Soo Goh inquires if these goals are missing the student element. Support for students. SD1 tag SD2. I work on SD1.

At the bottom there is a section of *Student engagement: Becki & Doris*

- Engage undergraduate students in research, scholarship, and creativity and recruitment of excellent graduate students (expanding, supporting, engaging, growing) (build in competitive funding for grad students - supporting)

Student support and engagement is appropriate in SD2 since it is already in SD2 as it plays a big role. This will be expanded in final format. Graduate students will have a separate focus.

Heather Waldroup suggests adding underrepresented faculty and scholarly activity that promote inclusivity.

Twila Wingrove adds to increase staffing. The Library and Office of Research have staffing challenges.

Gabe asks if the above covers partnerships with private entities. Christine Hendren says yes, but to consider a wider scope that encompasses such groups as elders of indigenous communities, Federal agency sectors, and international scholars.

Ece says that this is a really good discussion and it will continue at the next meeting. Read [last year's URC's ideas](#) and give Gabe tangible examples. Gabe adds that the future is uncertain and this must be considered when drafting the plan. Look towards the future. How is this going to change to accommodate future needs? Next Friday is the next UPPC meeting. Anything that you can provide is helpful. This is the “idea dump” stage. Feel free to [add any ideas](#).

Announcements

Heather Waldroup advertizes the [Global Symposium](#). Please apply and present.

Motion to adjourn. (Paxton, Waldroup). Adjournment at 5:23 pm.