

**University Research Council**

**March 16, 2021**

**4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

**Approved**

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

**Excused:** Alicia Jackson

**Absent:** Abhi Ramalingam

**Staff:** Kate Hoffman

- Ece Karatan calls the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

**New Business**

- Motion (Ahmed, Bouldin) to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2021 meeting.  
VOTE: 17 – Approved, 0 - Opposed, 1 - Abstained. Motion passes.

The four groups are sent into breakout rooms to prioritize the lists created at the previous meeting into the most achievable and most impactful selections.

**Group I:** [Increased Time for Scholarship](#)

Priority 1: Grant Management - Execution

Specifics: Once one is awarded a grant, allow time to conduct the work and no cost extensions, provide deadline reminders. Restructure and streamline the processes at the university level.

Priority 2: Junior Faculty Retention & Recruitment

Specifics: This same theme occurs in Groups II & III. OCSAs for junior faculty to cover an entire academic year. This needs to be a culture shift on campus. Allow service to be equitable for all faculty members. Establish a junior faculty mentoring committee. Provide clinical faculty support and allow for other non-tenure faculty to have a time release option for research work.

Priority 3: Grant Writing Time and/or Incentives

Specifics: Create writing retreats, workshops, brown bag lunches, and multi-department collaborations.

**Group II: [Increased Funds for Scholarship](#)**

Priority 1: Increase the total pool of URC funds and allow for flexibility of individual grant amounts to support projects regardless of size.

Specifics: Increase funding for identified bigger projects of need. Some projects need more, some need less. Identify different funding levels. Example: Psychology has a pool of money written into its bylaws and increases the funding based on inflation. Twila Wingrove notes that Psychology has a Google Form that is accessible, but it still requires effort and time to compile it into a newsletter.

Priority 2: Increase opportunities for course load reduction and/or summer support for research. Create opportunities for a full-year course reduction.

Specifics: Expand funding of OCSAs beyond just one semester to a full year. Fix the lack of flexibility based on the faculty's role. Remove the requirement of applying for external funding for arts faculty.

Priority 3: Create a pool of funds for small amounts of support.

Specifics: Allow for emergency funding for small dollar amounts (programming errors, publication fees). Create a rolling deadline for the applications. Establish limits to prevent the same people from applying.

**Group III: [Promotion of a Culture of Increased Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity](#)**

Priority 1: Increasing understanding of engagement with University Communications.

Specifics: Elevate faculty awareness of University Communications and increase University Communication's understanding of faculty scholarship. Appoint departmental representatives and have departmental newsletters interface with University Communications.

Priority 2: Support various forms of faculty scholarship across their career.

Specifics: Create flexibility with promotion and tenure documents. Elevate OCSA awareness and clarify guidelines. Establish an advisory committee for faculty members third year review & tenure.

Priority 3: Clarify the importance of different forms of scholarship in the University's mission.

Specifics: Utilize a campus wide Research Google Calendar. Shift a 3-3 teaching load to a 4-2 teaching load. Designate a shared space for activities. Advertise thesis defenses seminars.

**Group IV: [Administrators Increased Funds for Scholarship](#)**

The Administrative working group continues to fine tune the [document](#) from the previous meeting before proceeding with the above one.

The Honors College has been asked to join beginning in the Fall. The Honors College compiles submitted information into a newsletter. There is an offer by the Honors College of a student to assist the URC with collecting newsletter information.

Ece encourages the faculty members to provide feedback about what is needed to establish oneself as a new faculty member at ASU in their respective fields (X amount of funding for X amount of time). A baseline is needed in order to advocate for changes.

Ece asks what is the price tag on these recommendations? An economic feasibility study and ROI figures are needed. Ece thanks members for their discussions. She enjoys these conversations and this information will help to advocate in a strategic manner.

Spring 2021 URC Awards will be voted on at the next meeting.

Adjournment 5:29 pm