

Appalachian State University  
[University Research Council](#)

April 16, 2024

Approved Minutes

Meeting time: 4:02 pm

Meeting called to order by Christine Hendren

**Attendance:** Charna Howson, Shante' Mathes, Jennifer McGee, Ross Gosky, Dennis Guignet, Grace Plummer, Reza Foroughi, Gary McCullough, Ellen Lamont, Christine Hendren, Adam Hege, Andres Tellez, Nicholas Cline, Becki Battista, Bob Swarthout, Chauntee Thrill, Twila Wingrove, John Wiswell, Ann Kaplan, Ashley Colquitt, Heather Waldroup

Staff: Kate Hoffman

Excused: Karen Fletcher

Guests: Katie Shoaf

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the [March minutes](#) was made by Shante Mathes and seconded by Reza Foroughi. The minutes were approved.

**New Business**

URC Proposals Spring 2024 Competition - Katie Shoaf, Associate Director, Grants Resources & Services

Presentation of Scores

There were a total of 25 proposals. \$50k of funding was allocated. The applications that scored as recommended to fund were 11 at a total cost of \$48,216.

A motion to approve these eleven applications was made by John Wiswell and seconded by Bob Swarthout. The motion passed.

[URC 2024-25 planning](#)

- Identification of research processes that should be reviewed
  - Are there topics that you hear your colleagues identify as pain points?
    - A PI's access to budget information. How can we improve the ability of PIs to see their account balances and manage their budgets?
    - Establish a University level policy about P-card access for PIs

- Issue a policy for safe and inclusive field work that addresses faculty and individual liability.
- Can we improve the process for approving Data Use Agreements, especially with data from other states?
- How can we streamline, improve, and speed up the IRB review process?
- Can we improve the turn-around time on review of terms and conditions associated with purchases and contract work?
- What would you like to see the URC focus on in 2024-25?
  - How can we promote and encourage community-engaged research and scholarship at App State?
  - What are the implications of Generative AI in the research and scholarship produced at App State?
  - Is there a need to propose guidelines for the use of Generative AI in research and scholarship at App State?

#### Announcements ***add your unit/department/college announcements here***

- ***List your announcement here....***
- Office of Student Research Annual Celebration of Student Research and Creative Endeavors is this Thursday!!! 4th Floor of the Student Union. 140 presentations all by students. Please encourage your colleagues and students to attend. Program can be found [here](#)
- The Art Department is sponsoring a [visit from artist Michael Rakowitz](#) (with support of a NC Humanities Grant) - April 23 talk
- Sponsored Projects Administration Network (SPAN) [Zoom meeting](#) moved to 11 am on April 25th. This month's discussion will include HR changes to EHRA positions and travel for sponsored projects.
- Library will replace Web of Science with Scopus starting July 1st.
- Music Humanities Community Conversations Series [April 18th: Dr. Julie Shepherd-Powell \(App State IDS and Appalachian Studies\)](#) - Embodying Culture: Community Dances in Rural Appalachia (Dance Workshop)
- RIEEE Announcements
  - We welcomed Lauren Essick as Research Development and Operations Manager starting yesterday, 4/15.
  - We are hosting an experimental knowledge co-production workshop in May - see details [here](#) - join us, share with students, collaborators, etc.
  - We are hosting a webinar Friday focused on the regional economic context - see details [here](#).
- AIHW
  - As part of our ongoing efforts to advance healthcare and support for older adults, the Appalachian Institute for Health and Wellness and Northwest AHEC are

thrilled to announce the 2024 Aging Well Conference. This event is dedicated to fostering healthy aging and addressing the unique healthcare needs of older adults, particularly those in rural western North Carolina. We are reaching out to professionals like you, who are committed to enhancing geriatric care, to help us spread the word and encourage participation.

- **Conference Details:**
- *Location:* Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina
- *Dates:* May 16, 2024, 9:00 AM - May 17, 2024, 5:30 PM
- *Focus:* The conference will include individual and group presentations, panel discussions, and demonstrations, aiming to advance the knowledge and skills of healthcare providers in geriatric care.

For more information and to register, please visit [our website](#).

- [RSCA implementation](#)
  - Help identify App State's existing, emerging and potential **areas of excellence in research, scholarship and creative activities**. Interested colleagues can share their ideas for these areas of excellence via an [online submission process](#). This opportunity will be available through May 2, 2024. Drop-in Q&A session tomorrow at 11 - details [here](#).
  - Invite the Interim Vice Provost for Research to your academic department or unit meeting to discuss the Strategic Plan for RSCA implementation and provide input. Department chairs or unit leaders are encouraged to [complete this form](#) to schedule a time.
  - Provide feedback on the RSCA implementation at any time through [this form](#). The information gathered on this form will be used to identify progress towards completion of the RSCA Strategic Plan objectives; connect interested faculty and staff with working groups and fill committee membership needs; and address comments and suggestions about the strategies, actions, and implementation of RSCA Strategic Plan goals.
  - RSCA Strategic Plan here:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tQWSWi55rGqbvkkEO0iz2nB\\_xcacYkny/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tQWSWi55rGqbvkkEO0iz2nB_xcacYkny/view)

Kudos to those members who are rolling off: John Wiswell, Ann Kaplan, and Adam Hege (returns as an administrative member).

Motion to adjourn by Grace Plummer and seconded by Andres Tellez. Meeting adjourned at 4:52 pm.