

University Research Council
March 21, 2023
4 - 5:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes - Approved

Present: Becki Battista, Elaine Berry, Megen Culpepper, Karen Fletcher, Reza Foroughi, Adam Hege, Christine Hendren, Marie Hoepfl, Charna Howson, Ann Kaplan, Ece Karatan, Ellen Lamont, Shanté Mathes, Gary McCullough, Mina Min, Andres Tellez, Jenny Tonsing, John Wiswell, Heather Waldroup, Twila Wingrove, Jason Xiong

Excused: Nicholas Cline, Alecia Jackson

Absent:

Staff: Kate Hoffman

Guest: Gabe Casale

- Ece Karatan, Office of Research, Vice Provost for Research, calls the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.
- April 18th's meeting will be in person

New Business

URC Grants Review Next Steps

Individual reviews are due this Friday, March 24th by noon. Panels will have from March 25 until April 12 to discuss the applications as a group. Panel chairs will submit their group's recommendations on April 13. The panel members will be notified of the applications which are on the cusp of being funded. Panel chairs will aggregate the comments and review of which the applicants will see. The reviews that are sent to applicants are the reviews that the panels put together. Karen Fletcher thanks everyone for their efforts and service.

Updates on Strategic Plan for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities

Consultants from the National Organization of Research Development Professionals (NORDP) will be on campus March 30 and 31. Ece relays that Karen Eck and Jessica Venable are extremely experienced. Stakeholders will meet these two consultants to continue to build the strategic plan and the information gathered will assist in building metrics. There are three sessions of 8-10 slots for faculty to attend. A core working group

and chairs recommended some faculty names. This is invitation only, but there are some slots available. Ece will be reaching out to more individuals. The information gathered from the last two URC meetings will be shared with the consultants. It gives a sense of where we are as a campus so they have some understanding of what research and creative activities at App State are like. The consultants are meeting with multiple stakeholders (deans, associate deans, vice provosts, center and institute directors, chairs, faculty members, etc.).

Old Business

Strategic Plan for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities Additional questions for ([faculty](#)) and ([administrative](#))

i. How can faculty include more students in their research? What resources would they need?

Megen Culpepper explains that this is a problem across campus. It's the same issues talked about previously: time, space, and money. More space for students to use. Funding to pay students to make it worth their while and equitable to all students. Paying through class credit or assistantships are limited. URA rates per hour is pretty low considering limited hours. Students must apply for URAs they are not guaranteed. Student trainees that work in labs have outside jobs and huge class loads. Not all depts use assistantships. Communicate between departments to find student researchers and employees.. The online masters programs do not allow for financial support for graduate students. The Honors College has support for supplies and reagents. Some students volunteer to do the research so they can add it to their resume.

Gary McCullough suggests writing the students into the grants helps with getting supplemental funding. Always add students to the grant budgets. Faculty and student credit course loads are barriers and so is a lack of awareness of opportunities. It is difficult to communicate directly to students. There need to be ways for faculty with less of a course load to find research students. RIEEE's new student scholar program will introduce projects and allow for connecting with faculty mentors. Collaborations with CETLSS and Office of Student Research are helpful.

Ece comments that some faculty do not use student researchers. How do we incentivize faculty to utilize students?

ii. How do you communicate to the larger community about research and scholarship at App?

Megen Cullpepper adds that communication is conducted through conferences, publications, invitations to give talks. Faculty want to involve University Communications, but do not know how the process works. What is the process to advertise campus research? Utilize the college communication liaison? Who do we talk to to promote our research? Faculty use twitter, instagram, op-ed articles, listserv, and individual research pages. Making stronger connections is important. Making sure that the larger academic community knows who we are and what we do. Ece will invite University Communications next year to a URC meeting.

Gary McCullough relays that using University Communications to start new webpages is a slow process. It's good for internal use, but it is difficult to direct towards external audiences. Some suggestions are: Create panels to present on particular topics. Engage students in an entertaining experience with fun events. Push more stories out that are explained in layman's terms. Utilize App Radio & App TV and videos to promote current research. Have other students share their research stories. Focus on the students. However, protect the research areas that are sensitive topics or entail intellectual property. Hire a communications liaison specifically for the Office of Research. A dean's priorities can determine what is focused on by University Communications. Health Sciences uses a Google Form that collects information from faculty on what they want to self promote (data shared with dean, associate dean, and communication liaison). Work with students from the department of Communication for projects to promote research. Advancement has programs that invite faculty for paid presentations at country clubs for donor interest.

iii. Other than extramural funding, what priority goals would you like to work on related to research, scholarship, and creative activity?

Megen Culppeper says that time is needed for scholarship, as well as summer support for mid-to late faculty. Scholarships are not equally distributed. Campus needs to move past being a former teacher's college. Funding is needed for time to write initial grant proposals and for re-submissions as well. Support our best researchers. They are flight risks (increased salary, start-up) due to their expertise. Put resources at the level of our sister institutions. Other schools have bonuses for submitting grants.

Gary McCullough suggests stronger communication with faculty. Time is a big issue and so is lack of infrastructure, people and resources. Best practices need to be shared. Have a pre-tenure course release for finishing articles. Ask chairs to

add course releases for research. More FRTs are needed and chairs need assistance with replacements of faculty who are on release.

Ece Karatan states that these are lots of great ideas. Mention them to the consultants if you meet with them. How does one switch from teachers college to more of a research intensive university?

Announcements

John Wiswell: Open Access

<https://dsi.appstate.edu/news/open-access-appalachian-2023-read-and-publish-deals>

Consortium limited license of 735 licenses likely to run out before the end of the calendar year. Use of all 735 has been the trend. If someone is submitting to an only open access journal and all licenses are used, then there is a charge. App State does not submit many of these.

Becki Battista - The 26th Annual Celebration of Student Research and Creative Endeavors Meeting is Wednesday, April 19th from 9 am until 5 pm in the Plemmons Student Union.

<https://osr.appstate.edu/news/26th-annual-celebration-student-research-and-creative-endeavors-meeting-wednesday-april-19-2023>

Ece - A reviewer from the National Council of University Research Administrators reviewed the Sponsored Projects turnkey process from the proposal submission through the life cycle of an award including post-award non-financial and financial processes. from the proposal submission through the life cycle of an award including post-award non-financial and financial processes. Charna Howson, Elaine Berry, Sharon Bell, and David Jamison were actively involved. The reviewer shared the findings report.

The report is currently being reviewed. As the University grows, processes and the research portfolio varies and expands. Ece is working with David Jamison to work through the recommendations prior to communicating and implementing some of the suggestions.

Karen - Complete a [submission](#) by April 18th to present at the Research and Creative Activity at Appalachian Event on August 23, 2023. Also, please use the [sign up sheet](#) to be a room monitor.

Adjournment 5:30 (Wiswell, McCullough).