

## University Research Council

October 20, 2020

4 – 5 p.m.

Approved

**Present:** Maryam Ahmed, Becki Battista, Erin Bouldin, Andrew Caldwell, Megen Culpepper, Elaine Berry, Beth Fiske, Karen Fletcher, Soo Goh, Christine Hendren, Marie Hoepfl, Charna Howson, Ece Karatan, Shante' Mathes, Mina Min, Gary McCullough, Pam Mitchem, Andrew Monroe, Abhi Ramalingam, Twila Wingrove, Rebecca Witter

**Excused:** Alicia Jackson

**Absent:**

**Staff:** Kate Hoffman

- Ece Karatan called the meeting to order.
- Motion to approve the minutes from the September 15, 2020 meeting (Hendren, Boulin). VOTE: 14 – Approved, 0 Opposed, 1 - Abstained. Motion passes.

### 1. [University Research Council Updates Google Doc](#) - Ece Karatan

Prior to each meeting, all members are asked to share research scholarship highlights and updates to the document prior to the meeting and share a print-to-PDF version of the document to your departments, college, and/or area as appropriate after the meetings. It is not feasible to have every department on campus represented so please consider sharing this document beyond your department. These updates contain program, webinar and workshop links, deadline dates, and general research related information.

### 2. [Research Google Group](#) - Ece Karatan

Visit [Google Groups](#), search for research, join, and receive Office of Research messages from [group-research@appstate.edu](mailto:group-research@appstate.edu). Ece encouraged everyone to join the Research Google Group.

### 3. URC Fall 2020 Grant Competition Update - Karen Fletcher

Twenty five applications have been received, which is low. The breakdown is nine for STEM, ten for Social Sciences, Business and Education (SSBE), five for Health, and one for Arts and Humanities. Do you want the Arts and Humanities panel to review just one or do you want this panel combined with another panel (SSBE)? If just one is reviewed, it will probably be funded.

Members suggest spreading the workload. Panelists may not know the other areas being reviewed. Guidelines are helpful. Maybe some panelists can do initial review and then the panelists with familiar expertise can look into them with more detail.

Thank you for your feedback and Katie Howard should be getting out the proposals for review October 21.

#### 4. [University Research Council Summary 2019-20](#) - Ece Karatan

The [University Research Council Summary 2019-20](#) was last year's report of activity. The URC members self-selected last year into three sub-groups (increased funds for scholarship, increased time for scholarship, promotion of a culture of increased research, scholarly, and creative activity). The sub-groups discussed these areas and came up with specific issues and solution suggestions.

Shared what was discussed last year and then this year open the floor to discuss your ideas for this year.

#### 5. Agenda Items for Future Meetings Discussion - Ece Karatan

Ideas for future meeting agenda items could be extrapolated from this [document](#) (see item #4) and expanded upon.

Ece urged new members to begin the discussion.. Megen Culpepper suggested an addition to the promotion of the research culture section of encouraging and increasing the numbers of pre-tenure faculty, after their third year review, to embark on sabbatical (not a campus-wide standard).

Soo Goh commented on the need for increased funding. What is F&A? Ece answered Facilities & Administrative rates for most grants are negotiated percentages with the federal government which allows the percentage to be collected to run the research enterprise overhead. ASU's F&A rate established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is 38%.. An example is if a grant spends \$100k, an additional funding of \$38k is collected to run the research enterprise. Some rates vary. Some types of grants do not allow any F&A. Some training grants set the F&A rate at 8%. Portions of the money is returned back per the [Facilities and Administrative Cost Policy](#).

URC grants are funded by the F&A collected. Has COVID cut the funding? For this year funding is alright. There is the \$100,000, but the pool of money is in trouble. The collections are less than previously collected and there is a deficit in the fund. Past the next year adjustments will be needed depending on the collection status. As people spend on the grants and F&A is allowed, then it is collected based on these expenditures.

Goh also mentioned a need for the promotion of culture of increased research activity through effective messaging. Without the ability to meet and mingle, it is hard to promote research in this environment. Is there a social hour?

Ece responded that if COVID19 hadn't happened RECAPP was going to be at the Hayes School of Music. RECAPP was online this year. Social hour is a good idea.

Karen added that there is a research forum where different disciplines discuss a common topic. The next one is on Monday and there is a link to it in URC Updates Doc. IHHS and RIEEE hold talks. Office of Research sponsored STEM post labs, hosted by various departments, when all were on campus. It is the toughest thing to get the word out. Karen would love to brainstorm on how to get people together. OR also held a Speed Networking Event. The intent was to shortly meet and explain your expertise and interest to many. This type of event might be better virtually. Others agreed.

Marie Hoepfl stated connecting people is tough and incentives needed to attract people. Getting ideas off the ground is the first step.

Ece responded that one idea was setting aside some URC grant funding for specific interdisciplinary grants. See #5 item d on the URC Summary under Other Ideas for Increased Funds for Scholarship: "Interdisciplinary creative endeavor grants - grants to foster collaborative scholarship and creative work in unique and interesting ways (dance/physics, music/biology, historians/artists, engineers/sculptors, mental health/expressive arts, etc.)."

Becki Battista commented that the COVID grants are very successful. This is an incentive. These collaborative grants are creating real successes. It is a great example.

Goh asked if the Office of Research is represented in the new faculty orientation. Ece replied that it's been a moving target. Yes, the Office of Research is included, but maybe the orientation is not reaching everyone. Ece meets with many faculty candidates and discusses resources. However, she doesn't meet with every single hire.

Karen expanded OR used to have a bigger presence at new faculty orientation, but not anymore. The Center for Academic Excellence provides names of new faculty so that OR can reach more new faculty and introduce them to campus research services. New faculty are sent an email to invite them to a 1½ hour research-focused new faculty orientation that reviews all OR units and grant opportunities offered. We are always looking for new ways to reach them. It is tough to get in front of everyone.

Ece asked if a not-so-new faculty orientation would help. One place to put this information all together and present it to new faculty? One location on a Shared Google Drive with links to source material? Is this necessary? Thoughts?

Maryam Ahmed suggested a refresher course to include basic research lingo defined.

Karen noted the types of workshops offered in Spring and Fall: grant proposal writing, finding funding, how to use the SPIN database and AGrants, developing a research agenda, budget building, and statistical data analysis. Karen is open to suggestions regarding additional needs.

Beth Fiske recommends a workshop about how to find research service information. Try not to duplicate what can be easily found. Provide a general information session to deans and program chairs about how to grow their research that will help them orient their employees.

Ece states that she is trying to be included on the agenda of the new chair orientations.

Christine Hendren suggests creating an infographic that is clickable. Separate orientations can be conducted depending on faculty areas of interests or type of department.

Goh adds to ask successful grant recipients to mentor others. Those who are successful in writing and obtaining grants.

The PREPARE Program and the NIH R15 Grant Community connect a mentor and mentees.. The PREPARE Program started with a National Council of University Research Administrators grant award. The Colleges of Health Sciences, Fine & Applied Arts, and Arts and Sciences have participated so far. The goal is to have PREPARE in each of the colleges with senior, peer, administrators and staff as mentors. It is an academic year-long commitment. Mentees must attend six out of eight education sessions. Additionally, they meet with their senior mentor, participate in a mock review, and submit to an external funding agency. Mentoring is one of the highlights of the program.

Hendren offers the idea of having infrastructure and data sets fund research efforts. Involve the Town of Boone, and New River Light & Power to map out these resources where there are overlaps of interest. Prioritize how it will help. Asset mapping for research resources may help collaboration opportunities become visible.

**Adjournment 4:59 pm**