

## FACULTY SENATE PROPOSAL

Proposition: 22-08/09 Amended 4/14/09

Sponsors: Myriam Torres (CoEd, FS rep to the URC); Michele Nishiguchi (A & S);  
Patti Wojahn (A & S)

Proposed Committee Assignment: University Affairs

Actual Committee Assignment: Scholastic Affairs 4/14/09

TITLE: Update to the University Research Council (URC) Charter

Approvals: Academic Deans Council Pending

Proposal: To replace existing section in the policy manual related to the URC Charter with the modified text below. Remaining portions of the 5.94 Research section are unchanged.

Rationale:

When the University Research Council was established administration of research was organized differently at New Mexico State University. However, with recent changes, the role of the URC has evolved and the current charter is not representative of the current organizational structure, particularly with regard to the establishment of key research clusters. As a result, these changes to the charter will add consultation between the Vice President for Research and the college deans to suggest research group (clusters/institutes) representatives from colleges. This will maintain college representation and strengthen research group participation.

The changes remove position appointments for individuals that do not attend, largely because research at NMSU has changed since the charter was developed. This change proportionally increases faculty representation and enhances the committee's ability to have a quorum at URC meetings.

Finally, adding vision, mission, goals, and responsibilities gives a clearer, more concrete picture of how the URC can help foster research at NMSU.

A memorial with these goals was first introduced during the 07/08 academic year, recommended for passage by the University Affairs Committee and tabled in 4-3-08 Faculty Senate meeting.

## Chapter 5

### Faculty Policies

#### 5.94 Research

~~University Research Council: The University Research Council is a “stand-alone” council established to foster research at the university. Its role is to offer advice to the vice president for research, graduate studies and international programs and the executive vice president and provost regarding research affairs at the university. The University Research Council defines needs of the faculty and other researchers; analyzes services, policies, and procedures that affect research; and makes recommendations which, in its view, will facilitate the research process and research productivity at the university. The University Research Council is not a policy-making body, but rather a council established to develop policy recommendations to be passed on through the vice president for research, graduate studies and international programs. The structure of the University Research Council consists of an elected chair, an executive committee, and committees established to address specific issues. The University Research Council chair will be responsible for conducting regular University Research Council meetings. In the absence of the chair, the chair-elect will assume these duties. Appointments to the subcommittees are made by the executive committee. Office of the Vice President for Research, Graduate Studies and International Programs will serve as the office of record for the University Research Council.~~

The University Research Council (URC) of New Mexico State University was established to foster research at the university. It serves as an advisory body to the Vice President for Research, Graduate Studies and International Programs (VPR) and the Executive Vice President and Provost regarding research affairs at the university. The URC provides leadership in fostering a culture of research and in enhancing the University's distinction in research, scholarship, and creative activities among faculty, staff, and students.

#### Vision

The URC, in concert with the Office of the VPR, seeks to create and maintain a culturally-diverse and ethically-driven academic environment that promotes excellence in research through a university that:

- Acknowledges and celebrates innovation in research,
- Promotes and nurtures interdisciplinary research clusters and collaborative research partnerships as well as individual scholarly research,
- Sustains and maintains the founding core principles of the university,
- Advances collective representation among faculty, staff, and students to the administration through peer review of university funding programs and
- Supports the role of research in creating a university experience that enriches the lives of students, and helps them to become well-informed individuals, lifelong

learners, engaged citizens, and productive employees and employers.

### **Mission**

The URC assists the President, Provost, Vice Presidents, and Deans in formulating recommendations and policies specifically affecting the university research community. Formally advisory in nature, the URC provides a forum for internal discussion; initiates policy on research matters, gathers and disseminates information to the faculty, and provides a faculty voice to the university administration on matters pertaining to research. While it is recognized that research represents only one component of the academic enterprise, the URC focuses on facilitating and enhancing research-related activities at the university.

### **Goals**

The URC will work with research faculty, administrators, and students to achieve these goals:

- Increase research and creative activities,
- Improve the institutional environment for research,
- Strengthen the interdependence between research areas and creative activities,
- Focus resources on nationally relevant, regionally competitive, and land-grant mandated research, and
- Increase public awareness of New Mexico State University research.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

While adaptive to changing priorities facing research endeavors, the URC has the following specific duties and responsibilities:

- Recommend to the Faculty Senate policies it deems appropriate with respect to research activities, facilities, personnel, and patents,
- Consult with and advise the VPR on the stimulation of and support for research activities, including policies for allocation of monies to be invested in NMSU research endeavors,
- Provide strategic research direction to the VPR and independently to the President,
- Assist in the evaluation of research programs within the university, and advise on new research centers and institutes and the performance evaluation of existing centers and institutes,
- Recommend policies that will foster a strong and mutually productive relationship between departments and research groups such as clusters, research centers, research institutes, and departments,
- Be an advocate for the faculty on governmental, industrial and other private sector and foundation support of the research programs of the university,
- Support enhanced mechanisms for faculty to benefit financially from technology

- transfer and commercial application of research results for the public benefit,
- Facilitate training for research faculty on research grant management and indirect cost mechanisms,
- Review and make recommendations to the VPR on internal research grants and awards, and
- Work with the VPR in enhancing procedures for submissions and review of research proposals.

University Research Council Membership: The structure of the University Research Council consists of the complete URC membership, an elected chair, an executive committee, and subcommittees established to address specific issues. The URC chair will be responsible for conducting regular URC meetings. In the absence of the chair, the chair-elect or designee will assume these duties. The office of the VPR will serve as the office of record for the URC.

Faculty – Two faculty members from each college (three from Arts and Sciences) and one representative from the Physical Science Laboratory will serve on the University Research Council. In order to be eligible, a faculty member must be a member of the graduate faculty and be actively involved in research as these pursuits are defined by the faculty member's college. Representatives from each college will serve 2-year terms on the council. These terms will be staggered such that one person will be selected each year (two in 1 year and one the next year from the College of Arts and Sciences). This process allows colleges to be represented by at least one experienced University Research Council member at all times. University Research Council members are eligible for reappointment. If a University Research Council representative is unable to serve out a term, the dean of the appropriate college will arrange for a replacement to fill the position.

Terms of office for faculty representatives to the University Research Council will officially end on June 30. In order to ensure an orderly progression of University Research Council activities, however, the retiring University Research Council chair should inform the college deans in early April each year as to the membership status of college representatives. This procedure will allow colleges time to make selection arrangements before the spring semester ends. New University Research Council members will, therefore, be in place and ready for the first University Research Council meeting each fall. Selection procedures for faculty representatives will be determined by the individual colleges. Final selections of faculty representatives from the colleges will be provided to the URC by the College Deans. Research cluster and institute representatives will be nominated by the VPR in consultation with the College Deans and research group members. Newly elected officers will assume duties on July 1. ~~Position appointments consist of (1) vice president for research, graduate studies and international programs and chair of the Council of Research Centers; (2) dean of the Graduate School; (3) dean of the University Library; (4) Faculty Senate representative, as well as directors of the following campus research units and organizations:~~

- ~~Center for International Programs~~
- ~~Information and Technological Services~~
- ~~Computing Research Laboratory~~

- ~~○ Southwest Technology Development Institute~~
- ~~○ Water Resources Research Institute~~

~~Designated Representatives: If position appointees are unable to be active participants in the University Research Council, they may appoint a designated representative to serve as their proxy. Designated representatives will serve 1-year appointments, which may be renewed.~~

Executive Committee: ~~Five~~ **Four** University Research Council members will serve on an Executive Committee: chair; chair-elect (vice chair); immediate past-chair; **and** faculty representative; ~~and position appointment representative~~. Responsibilities of the Executive Committee include, but are not limited to: preparing agenda, appointing subcommittees, and delivering charges to these subcommittees.

Early in the spring semester, the current Executive Committee will appoint a nominating subcommittee charged with the task of preparing a slate of University Research Council members willing to serve on the next year's Executive Committee. ~~Offices of chair and chair-elect will alternate between faculty and position appointment representatives.~~ Executive Committee elections will subsequently be held at the March or April University Research Council meeting. Once a faculty representative has been selected to serve a 3-year sequence as chair-elect, chair, and ~~past-~~chair, the college will be permitted to select an additional representative to either complete an unexpired term or to serve a regular 2-year term, whichever is appropriate. A faculty member serving as immediate past-chair will be considered an ex officio member of the University Research Council if the faculty representative is no longer serving as an elected representative from a particular college.

The final document would read as attached.

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Faculty – Two faculty members from each college (three from Arts and Sciences), one faculty representative from the library, one representative from the Physical Science Laboratory, and one representative from faculty senate will serve on the University Research Council. In order to be eligible, a faculty member must have at least a 25% allocation of effort assigned to research and creative activity.

Representatives from each college will serve 2-year terms on the council. These terms will be staggered such that one person will be selected each year (two in 1 year and one the next year from the College of Arts and Sciences). This process allows colleges to be

represented by at least one experienced University Research Council member at all times. University Research Council members are eligible for reappointment. If a University Research Council representative is unable to serve out a term, the dean of the appropriate college will arrange for a replacement to fill the position.

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