

University Research Advisory Committee

Thursday, September 5, 2019

Members Present

Dr. Steven Anton, Dr. Deborah Barnard, Chair, Dr. Jason Beach, Dr. Jeff Boles, Dr. Tammy Boles for Dr. Hayden Mattingly, Dr. Sheikh Ghafoor, Ms. Brookland Gordon, Dr. Shelia Hurley, Dr. Brian Leckie, Dr. Satish Mahajan, Dr. Ramchandran Natarajan

Members Absent

Dr. Michael Adduci, Ms. Emily Bass, Dr. Adam Holley, Dr. Mark Stephens

Others Present

Ms. Deborah Gernt, Dr. Francis Otuonye, Dr. Terry Saltsman, Ms. Sandra Storie

Call to order

Dr. Barnard called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

Approval of Agenda

Dr. Ghafoor moved to approve the agenda for the September 5, 2019 meeting and Dr. Mahajan seconded. Agenda unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Beach moved to approve the April 11, 2019 meeting minutes. Dr. Mahajan seconded. Minutes unanimously approved.

New URAC Members and Support Staff

Dr. Barnard introduced Brookland Gordon, student representative to the committee. She also introduced Dr. Tammy Boles, who is serving as a representative for Dr. Hayden Mattingly, and Sandra Storie, support staff.

Election of URAC Chairperson for 2019-2020

Dr. Barnard opened discussion concerning a URAC Chairperson for 2019-2020. Dr. Ghafoor made a motion to nominate Dr. Jeff Boles. Dr. Natarajan seconded. Dr. Jeff Boles unanimously elected as URAC Chairperson for 2019-2020.

Meeting days/times for Fall 2019

Dr. Barnard opened discussion of meeting days/times for Fall 2019. Most of the committee is able to meet on the first Thursday of the month, from 2 pm to 3 pm. The committee agreed to continue meeting at that time, with the Fall 2019 meetings scheduled as follows;

- Thursday, October 3, Deans' Conference Room (Derryberry 200), 2pm-3pm
- Thursday, November 7, Deans' Conference Room (Derryberry 200), 2pm-3pm

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Follow-up from Spring Business:

a) **URAC observations and recommendations re: Carnegie Funding**

Dr. Barnard opened discussion of URAC observations and recommendations regarding Carnegie Classification funding, reviewing information that was sent to Dr. Eaton on June 6. Dr. Eaton shared this information with Dr. Stinson on June 11.

The committee reviewed information gathered about this funding and its impact on research. Dr. Jeff Boles will continue to communicate with committee members and university administration to strengthen the research program and research funding. Committee members discussed ways to enhance research, including an effort to increase research proposals submitted as well as support for graduate students who are focusing on research.

Dr. Ghafoor moved to form a subcommittee with a focus on developing a short survey that can be distributed to all faculty before fall break. The survey will seek faculty input on research priorities. Dr. Hurley seconded. The motion was unanimously approved, with the following members volunteering to be part of the subcommittee:

- Dr. Anton
- Dr. Barnard
- Dr. Boles
- Dr. Hurley
- Dr. Leckie

b) **Request to President's Office to offset term limits for some URAC members**

Dr. Barnard will send the request to Dr. Otuonye to pursue final approval for offset term limits for URAC committee members.

c) **Query re: distribution of indirect costs to Centers of Excellence**

Dr. Barnard followed up on the discussion at the April meeting regarding distribution of indirect costs to the Centers of Excellence. Ms. Gernt clarified the notes in the April minutes regarding the current distribution, noting that the 30% identified as the Business Office distribution is directed to the university's general fund. Dr. Mahajan will follow up with Dr. Boles and Dr. Otuonye by memo.

Aligning URAC Procedures with the Strategic Plan

Dr. Otuonye opened discussion on a goal highlighted by President Oldham to double sponsored research to \$40 million by 2025. Dr. Saltsman offered information about the role of Cornerstone, a lobbyist organization that will assist in building relationships with federal agencies.

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Other Business

Committee members thanked Dr. Barnard for her work as URAC Chairperson.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Anton and seconded by Dr. Beach. Meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM, Thursday, September 5, 2019.

Minutes prepared by: Sandra Storie

Approved: 10.03.2019