

**University Research Council**  
**Academic Year 2015-2016**

**Summary of Meetings**

There were three meetings held for the University Research Council (URC) during the 2015-2016 academic year. All other businesses during the year were transacted electronically via email or via one-on-one visits to Millican Hall.

**URC First Meeting**

The 2015-2016 University Research Council met for the first time on Tuesday, October 13 at 3:00PM. The following participants were in attendance:

- Maureen Ambrose
- Suryanarayana Challapalli
- Peter Delfyett
- Cristina Fernandez-Valle
- Bari Hoffman-Ruddy
- Kimberly Jentsch
- Mark Kamrath
- Matthew Marino
- Donna Neff
- Fevzi Okumus (via phone)
- Mary Page
- Lei Zhai
- Thomas Wan
- Dodie Hajra

Introductions were provided, Fevzi Okumus was elected chair of the committee and three subcommittees were formed or discussed:

- UCF In-House Awards subcommittee: Lei Zhai, Thomas Van and Fevzi Okumus
- Research Incentive Award (RIA) subcommittee: Matthew Marino, Fevzi Okumus, Mary Page and Suryanarayana Challapalli.
- Burnett Honors College subcommittee: Maureen Ambrose, Bari Hoffman-Ruddy, Cristina Fernandez-Valle, Paul Wiegand.

The meeting concluded at 3:25p.

**URC for Excellence in Research Nominees Meeting**

The URC met on February 22, 2016 from 11:00-11:55AM at Millican Hall to discuss rankings for the Excellence in Research Nominees. The following committee members were present: Paul Wiegand, Lei Zhai, Suryanarayana Challapalli, Donna Neff, Fevzi Okumus, Mark Kamrath, Thomas Wan, Cristina Fernandez-Valle and Dodie Hajra. Individual URC member rankings were compiled and selections were made and submitted. Additionally, the Research Council discussed issues related to the general criteria for these awards.

## **URC Meeting**

The URC met on April 18, 2016 from 11:00-11:55AM at Millican Hall to discuss issues related to In-House Research Awards, Excellence in Research Award Announcements, New Possible Awards and TIP Awards. The URC discussed issues related to the general criteria and concerns for these awards.

## **Summary of Issues or Topics Addressed**

Activities of the URC during the 2015/2016 academic year included the following:

1. Review and make suggestions for **UCF In-House Awards** November 2015 - January 2016. Rankings and comments were provided in January 2016.
2. Formation of a **RIA** subcommittee was formed in October 2015 (Matthew Marino, Fevzi Okumus, Mary Page and Suryanarayana Challapalli). Rankings and comments were provided in December 2015.
3. Formation of a subcommittee for **Institute and Center Nominees** in February 2016, as well as review and selection of a nominee.
4. Review and make suggestions for **Excellence in Research Nominees**. Research Council members reviewed binders one-on-one at Millican Hall in February 2016. The final rankings were subsequently submitted.
5. Review and make suggestions for **Teaching Incentive Program (TIP)** Award from Centers and Institutes. Rankings were provided in April 2016.
6. Review and make suggestions for **Burnett Honors College Summer Grants** in April 2016 (conducted by Mary Page, Donna Neff, Lei Zhai and Paul Wiegand (Chair). Rankings and comments for the four applications were provided at that time.

## **Recommendations & Outcomes**

The URC recommends the following: There were concerns that the overall scale of funding is different in different disciplines. Therefore, it may be worth considering splitting such awards under sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities. The number and amount of In-House Awards should be increased to reflect the University's growth. Research Council should be informed about the final rankings of In-House Research Award submissions. In-House Research Award proposals should have a 250 word abstract and explicit instructions should be provided to direct applicants to address a non-specific audience. Introduction of a new In-House Interdisciplinary Research Awards program across the university should be considered. Awards and grant submissions and reviews should be done electronically. Eligibility for the Teaching Incentive Program (TIP) Award from Centers and Institutes should be clarified. A specific TIP Award review criteria from Centers and Institutes should be developed. There were concerns and comments that the TIP Award from Centers and Institutes should not be reviewed by the UCR.