THE PROVOST’S CHARGE

Provost Patricia Beeson attended the meeting to give her Charge for the 2014-2015 academic year:

Faculty Research Support

- The Council should investigate new ways to support research and scholarship in the humanities and social sciences. The current special seed funding RFA provided by the Provost's office for the humanities is believed to be a good start. The new RFA that will come out this month for the social sciences is another initiative this year. The Council should evaluate the effectiveness of these two programs and propose new initiatives for the next fiscal year.

- The Council should continue to sponsor the annual Federal Agencies Trip. The trip enables the University’s faculty member to interact with project managers from various federal agencies.

- The Council should continue to sponsor the Central Research Development Fund (CRDF), which provides seed funding for individual investigators' projects. Emphasis should be placed upon helping junior as opposed to senior scholars.

- Examples could be grant writing seminars, internal grant review processes, and new support materials for investigators. In addition, investigate and draft a report on the potential effectiveness of a central grants development office, including a benchmarking of other universities.

- Corporate Research

Undergraduate Research: The Council should continue to explore opportunities to support undergraduate research. There should be a report submitted from the Committee by March 1, 2015 to the Provost with findings and recommendations

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Other Comments (following Dr. Beeson’s Charge):

- Mark Redfern introduced Dr. Jennifer Woodward, new Associate Vice Provost for Research Operations, and Mr. Donald Shields, new Associate Vice Provost for Research Initiatives.

- Mark Redfern would like to form Sub Committees this year to work on various research topics. Mark will send an email to the Council regarding forming Sub Committees. One
of the first topics may be Corporate Relations since this seems to be an important initiative for Chancellor Gallagher.

- Another Sub Committee topic will be dealing with MTA’s. Jennifer Woodward briefly discussed the new system the Office of Research is working with to track and coordinate the University’s MTA’s (MyRA).

- Mark Redfern mentioned the new Social Sciences initiative that he is working on with Dr. Kathy Blee. He expects to distribute the announcement by early November.

- Mark Redfern discussed that this year is the “Year of Sustainability”. He would like to discuss more on Sustainability in the coming months.

- Next Year will be the “Year of the Humanities,” Mark hopes the Humanities faculty will have some thoughts to discuss during this year.

Next URC Meeting: November 11th at 12 noon
Location: University Club, Conference Room A