Mark Redfern presented his Faculty Assembly presentation given at the November 2013 meeting. Some highlights from the presentation were:

Strategic Initiatives:
- Innovation Institute
- Sustainability
- Support Energy Research
- Corporate Relations

New Initiatives:
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Big Data
- Computation: where do we want to be in 5 years? Should we have special person for this area?
- Shale Gas/Water

Mark Redfern briefly discussed Office of Research upcoming office structure changes.
- Discussion came up on establishing a Grants Development office: University-wide versus School-wide was discussed. This discussion will be continued at the January 2014 meeting

Don Taylor gave a brief presentation on his informal student survey on Pitt’s undergraduate research experiences. Some comments discussed:
- Neil Hukriede: *Medical School won’t consider students that don’t have formal research in their background*
- Kathy Blee: *Not enough research projects for students not in the Sciences*

Mark Redfern asked if a subcommittee should be formed to look into Undergraduate Research fellowships and other opportunities?

**ACTION ITEM:** Mary Grace will email Don Taylor’s survey to the Council to review.

The next URC Meeting is scheduled for January 13th at noon - University Club.