

**University of Louisiana at Monroe
Research Council
Minutes**

**August 11, 2008
Room 622, ULM Library**

Meeting Began ca. 1:10 p.m.

Members Present

Girish Shah (Chair)
Stephen Fox
Don Smith
Belinda Morgan
Janet Haedicke

Rene Hearn
Carl Kogut
Florencetta Gibson
Ann Findley
Ken Clow

Members Not Present

Russ Minton
Jean Low

Joe McGahan (not available, attending conference)
K. Jackson

The following discussion was held:

GS started the meeting. The council members introduced themselves.

GS requested a volunteer for taking minutes. SF volunteered.

AF endeavored to find the Provost, who was expected to address the meeting. She returned from the Provost's Office to inform us that the expected address was not on his calendar.

GS gave a review of concerns identified by the council of the previous year (07 – 08) that are likely to continue to be of import this year (08 – 09). These are:

- (1.) The creation of a "research portal" linked to the collected research interests of the ULM academic community on the ULM homepage
- (2.) Identification of statewide committees involved in research funding and endeavors to gain ULM representation on such committees
- (3.) Clarification of hiring policies for temporary and longer term research personnel

In regard to (2.), GS pointed out that ULM is currently "voiceless" – having no representation on committees dealing with statewide research funding. He inferred that attaining such representation should be a ULM priority

In regard to (3.), GS cited a case where one of his colleagues had waited 8-9 months for approval to hire research personnel, at which point his grant had run out. AF pointed out that for longer term appointments involving benefits (such as Post-Docs) approval was required from Baton Rouge and the Board of Regents (BoR) because "it's the law." DS and KC informed that temporary personnel fulfilling the "contract labor option" are possible without BoR approval. Nevertheless, AF requested that the council seek policy clarification. RH (Director, Office of Sponsored Programs and Research) said she would look into this along with many other items currently on her agenda. RH continued by informing the council that she is in the process of staffing a "research office" at ULM. RH informed the council that manifold augmentation of research is a stated objective in the ULM strategic plan.

In further discussion, AF requested information from RH about the annual requests for proposals from the Board of Regents for research funding (generically referred to as LEQSF). Specifically, AF requested information on which academic disciplines are eligible for funding this year. Here, GS cited another example of problems experienced by colleagues in Medicinal Chemistry who had submitted proposals in the Chemistry discipline only to have them rejected by the Board as ineligible.

Next Meeting

GS requested that each council member send a copy of their Fall 08 schedule to him at shah@ulm.edu so that he might develop a schedule for further meetings during the semester

Meeting adjourned ca. 1:45 p.m.

Stephen Fox,
Member, Research Council