

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

**October 16, 2008  
Room 420, ULM Library**

**Meeting Began ca. 3:00 p.m.**

**Members Present**

Girish Shah (Chair)  
Stephen Fox  
Don Smith  
Janet Haedicke

Russ Minton  
Joe McGahan  
Keith Jackson  
Ivona Jukic

**Members Not Present**

Belinda Morgan  
Rene Hearn  
Carl Kogut  
Jean Low

Ann Findley  
Florencetta Gibson  
Ken Clow

**The following discussion was held:**

The agenda stated that Ivona Jukic (*in lieu* of Rene Hearn) would provide details of new initiatives from the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research. Due to pressing Board of Regents deadlines, IJ was attending to some grant proposal concerns and did not arrive at the outset; GS therefore invited discussion of the status of research at ULM. RM stated there was a lack of research culture at ULM. JH raised the question of faculty motivation as one of the reasons for the lack; RM pointed out that ULM is after all "teaching first." JM drew a contrast with LaTech and informed the council that with regard to research, LaTech "was cranking." SF asked why that was so. JH (followed by DS) pointed out that LaTech is a tier 2 institution whereas ULM is tier 3, and that the Board of Regents makes major distinctions between the two with respect to research funding. Upon her arrival, IJ addressed the council. She introduced the notion that the teaching loads of faculty might be diminished for those awarded research grants. She also informed that federal funding is becoming more difficult to obtain with restrictions about to apply with regard to the number of times a proposal can be submitted to certain federal agencies. Perhaps in response to the mention of federal funding, RM suggested that development of research culture might be best effected by myriad faculty members pursuing smaller awards such as "PFund" – essentially \$10,000 awarded to a pilot project. He himself has received such an award and has found it most helpful to him in