

University Research Committee 2016-2017 Summary Report

The University Research Committee (URC) spent the initial couple of months completing the document of last year's URC, on the policy for "International Collaborations and Export Controls", which was then presented to the Senate.

The remainder of the academic year was spent on the primary focus of the URC, namely on promoting diversity in research. This includes (1) mentoring and recruitment of both, students and faculty, as well as (2) pursuit of research topics and research designs that promote inclusion and diversity. Our intent was to both, assess where we stand as a university and to make recommendations for improvement.

The URC held monthly meetings, focused on (i) understanding the current state of diversity at the university by examining past and current diversity statistics, (ii) exploring best existing practices across the various schools (with emphasis on the research enterprise) by meeting with representatives from units across the university, and (iii) developing specific recommended actions as the next steps in the ongoing goal of enhancing university's culture of diversity.

We completed the academic year with a draft of a document that summarizes our recommendations, that could be completed at the beginning of the coming academic year and then presented to the Senate.