Members Present:
Ralph Byington, Carol Osborne for Daniel Ennis, Paul Gayes, Edward Jadallah, Varavut Limpasuvan, Wink Prince, Michael Roberts, Sara Sanders, Charmaine Tomczyk, Zan Wiggins, Robert Young, Cheryl Ward.

Members Absent:
Gary Loftus, Jim Luken, Cheryl Ward.

Rob Young presided over meeting

1. Approval of minutes from March 8, 2012 – Approved

2. Recommendation/selection for Emerging Scholar Incentive Award winner.
   a. After much deliberation over several exceptional candidates for the Emerging Scholar Incentive Award, the committee voted to recommend Dr. Kevin Xu, Assistant Professor in the Department of Marine Science, as the winner. Rob Young will confirm the selection with Provost Sheehan and will send a congratulatory letter to Dr. Xu and rejection letters to the other candidates, Dr. Erika Small in the Department of Management and Decision Sciences, and Dr. Cathy Jones in the Department of Early Childhood Education. The committee asked that the rejection letters reflect the difficulty of the decision and the excellent record of the candidates.
   b. The committee discussion identified difficulties in judging faculty productivity across disciplinary lines, and deans expressed a desire to establish separate college-wide Emerging Scholar Awards (with monetary awards for each). There was general agreement on this direction, and mixed agreement on whether a university-wide winner would then be chosen from the college winners, and whether that decisions would be made by an internal or external body. The committee tasked Dr. Young to present these ideas to the Provost for further consideration. [the Provost later agreed to discuss this with deans at an upcoming dean’s meeting.]

3. Undergraduate research support via (QEP) Quality Enhancement Program and other funds.
   a. Dr. Young reviewed that the QEP will soon be able to provide funding to individual student research and scholarly projects. He asked if colleges currently have adequate or nearly adequate funding for student conference travel, and if their QEP planning includes continued and/or expanded support for undergraduate research and research/presentation travel.
   b. All colleges indicated that they did have current support and that their QEP plans will support additional student research activities, as appropriate.

NEXT MEETING:
There will be no meeting in May.
Dr. Rob Young’s term as URC chairman ends 5/31/12.
Dr. Michael Roberts will be the new chair of URC