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## The Future of URCO

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*Utah State University*

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### Recommended Citation

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: URCO Evaluation Workshop Participants

FROM: JeDon Emenhiser

SUBJECT: The Future of URCO

DATE: September 2, 1975

From the positive response to the concept of undergraduate research and creative opportunities expressed at the Sherwood Hills Evaluation Workshop, supported by the Danforth Foundation, and your constructive comments on how to involve more persons in the experience, URCO will be broadened in 1975-76 to include all interested faculty and students in the University.

As a follow-up to the May meetings at Sherwood Hills, we pursued the possibility of launching URCO on a university-wide basis. During the month of June, our consultant supplied by the Danforth Foundation, Professor M. L. A. MacVicar, the director of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, visited our campus and reviewed the material from the Sherwood Hills Workshop, met with many of our students and faculty, and advised President Taggart that URCO had a successful experiment in the Colleges of Agriculture and of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences where more than 60 students participated spring quarter. Then in July, Vice President Peterson and I had an opportunity to meet with Professor MacVicar and the Chancellor, the Provost, and others at MIT to discuss the details of operating their program, which is beginning its sixth year. On our campus the Provost's Office, the Office of University Research, the Honors Program, and the college deans have all agreed to help implement URCO.

Coordinators in each of the colleges have volunteered to explain the idea of URCO to faculty and students and to help assemble the 1975-76 Directory of Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunities, which should be available for fall quarter registration. Please submit items for the Directory yourself, and encourage your colleagues who may be interested to participate also. If you have any questions about the purpose or operations of URCO that the summary of our evaluation discussions contained in this report or the other material cannot

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answer, please contact me or the URCO coordinator in your college: Agriculture, Gilbert Long (7311); Business, Roger Sedjo (7239); Education, Evelyn Wiggins (7481); Engineering, Ronney Harris (7879); Family Life, Phyllis Snow (7601); Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, JeDon Emenhiser (7375); Natural Resources, David Balph (7941); and Science, Richard Anderson (7172).

In her evaluation report to President Taggart, Professor MacVicar wrote:

This first year of planning and of a two-college pilot program finds URCO healthy and, I believe, ready to be expanded to a full eight-college, university-wide program. I was impressed by the generally warm reception the pilot program received from the participating students, faculty, departments, and colleges. From my conversations Wednesday night through Friday with various university faculty and administrators, the ambience is friendly in the non-pilot colleges too. In the flush of a good pilot, no one should underestimate or overlook, however, the massive effort ahead if URCO is to wend its way into the everyday fabric of the undergraduate experience.

Deans and department heads will be discussing URCO with faculty soon, but if you can help interpret its purpose and describe how it works to your colleagues, it would be greatly appreciated. Thanks.

JAE