Singapore, 10 August 2004

URECA – a new programme to cultivate a research culture among NTU undergraduates

Who are eligible for URECA?
URECA is open to selected second and third undergraduates in a four-year Bachelors degree programme and to second year undergraduates in a three-year Bachelors degree programme. These students are known collectively as NTU President Research Scholars if they choose to undertake URECA projects.

What are the benefits of the URECA programme?
- Students get to experience research first-hand and be immersed in a given research problem for a substantial immersion period - an average of 10 hours a week for eight months in the academic year. This allows students to have a better understanding of the research problem in order to facilitate more significant research findings.
- Students work closely with their URECA professors and learn the ‘makings’ of a researcher. The URECA professors can be significant referees and mentors for the students’ future endeavours, even enter into partnership in a new start-up venture(s).
- Students will receive $400 per month for 10 hours/week of research work and more if he/she chooses to spend more time in research
- Students will earn academic units counted towards the number of credits required of their degree programmes.

**Is there flexibility in the choice of research projects?**
Students can choose any project from any school as long as the URECA professor who proposed that project agrees to be their supervisor.

For example, if a student is from the School of Computer Engineering and is interested in a URECA project in Nanyang Business School, he/she can approach that professor concerned and meet him/her. The process is complete when the professor takes on the role of supervisor for that student.

**What if many students choose the same research project?**
The URECA programme is very flexible. If a student finds that the research project he/she is interested in is already taken up, he/she can approach the professor who offered that project to explore other possibilities. The professor, for example, can create another similar project or see how the student can investigate a different aspect(s) of the same project.

**Can students propose their own research projects?**
Students can propose their pet research projects on any topic. They then proceed to find a professor from any school in NTU to supervise them for their proposed projects.

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