COR MINUTES

To: COR Members
From: Jeanne Hossenlopp
Date: 2/8/12
Re: Marquette University Committee on Research
Approved Minutes/ February 8, 2012 Meeting

Present: David Clark, Richard Friman, Arthur Hefti, Jeanne Hossenlopp, Kyle Kim, Doug Lobner, Tim McMahon, David Papke, William Pink, Raj Rathore, Erik Ugland, Marianne Weiss
Excused: Melody Baker (note taker), Amanda Ahrndt (ORC), Kathy Durben (ORSP), Austin Fritsch (ORC), Tim Melchert (Grad School), Fr. Scott Pilarz, President

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Lobner at 9:00 a.m. The agenda was approved.

Discussion with Fr. Pilarz on the role of research at Marquette

Members introduced themselves to Fr. Pilarz and Dr. Lobner briefly discussed the role of the COR. Dr. Lobner began the conversation on research by describing from his own experience, how the students working in his lab benefit from the experience that has really become mandatory for their careers. Students that are funded are funded with research grants. Summer programs, when students are able to spend 40 hours in the lab, are very important.

Dr. McMahon described a program in History that is funded by a Mellon grant (an internal endowment) that enables students to work with professors on research projects.

Dr. Melchert added that the undergraduate research experience has become a prerequisite for getting into graduate school for many students. While a few are funded, many participate on a volunteer basis. Often the research they participate in leads to published works.

There was some discussion on the research niche MU fills in comparison with other institutions in the state, which is a good thing, but Dr. Rathore advised that MU needs to go to the next level with research, and gave an example of why. In spite of the universities desire to create diversity across campus, he described the difficulty of trying to hire a well-qualified female professor in his department. Dr. Hefti agreed, adding that MU should desire to become a national leader in research. Already, research results are communicated across the nation, and although MU is a fabulous resource for SE Wisconsin, it would be nice to be a national resource. An assessment needs to be made on where it is most beneficial to invest in order to attain these goals.

Fr. Pilarz added that he could use some help from researchers in talking to benefactors to help understand what it is they do.

Dr. Friman described how, despite his department’s best efforts and encouragement from external reviewers to start a PhD program, they have been put off. In the past research has not been stated as a top priority by the administration, but how is advancement publicizing research? What is advancement pushing for? It’s not always just money that is needed; time is a critical component for faculty research. Dr. Clark agreed that faculty research time is a critical issue, and summer funding is extremely important. Dr. Weiss added that summer funding and start up packages are critical for her college which is already short on faculty.

In the Law School, there is an obvious and tremendous overlap of the best teachers also being the best scholars, and these two things can’t be separated, Dr. Papke added.

Fr. Pilarz asked if there was ever a time when faculty appeared before the Board of Trustees (BOT) to talk about their research and members responded no, there hasn’t been. He recommended this would be a good idea, adding that it is imperative to sell them on the
importance of research. Dr. Friman said in the past there were trustees who asked to meet individually with faculty. However, he recommended that meeting in smaller groups focused on a board member's interest may be more effective. Fr. Pilarz stated he would work on this for the May BOT.

Dr. Pink said faculty in Education often practice a combination of service, research, and scholarship, but are often unrecognized locally. Dr. McMahon added that regardless of a student's major, the conversation about the humanities and social sciences needs to be included front and center, and the centrality of the Jesuit mission needs to be included. MU needs to be portrayed as more than bricks, mortar, and classrooms.

Dr. Ugland asked how other colleges have managed the teaching and research balance in order to achieve promotion and tenure. Dr. Friman described how his department has experimented with teaching loads to make it possible for faculty to develop. They found that once a faculty has a heavy teaching load, it is difficult to get out of. Fr. Pilarz asked Dr. Hossenlopp to get him information on teaching loads.

In conclusion, Fr. Pilarz would like to work with the COR to get faculty research included in the May BOT, think about how University Advancement can better promote research to obtain funding in these areas. Fr. Pilarz thanked the committee for a good discussion and said he would like to come back to the COR and focus on strategic planning with this group.

Reports:
Report from the Vice Provost for Research – Dr. Hossenlopp shared that an announcement has been sent for Associate Dean of the Graduate School position. She encouraged members to forward the names of any potential candidates.

Report from the Chair – no report

Report from the Director of ORSP – Ms. Durben gave a report on the status of awards and applications in comparison to last year, as well as informing the members on deadline changes for some awards. She also shared that some new awards that were received in January. The Career Cohort Program has been started and is intended for faculty in tenure lines who have not yet received tenure to help them get off to a good start in their research. She announced that a health care economics and innovation discussion is taking place tomorrow and encouraged anyone interested to attend.

Report from ORC - Mr. Fritsch announced that annual compliance reports have been submitted.

Business:
Review Way-Klingler Young Scholar Nominations –
The top seven nominations were discussed, mostly because the fourth and fifth were very closely ranked. Everyone was in agreement with the selection as it stands. A motion was made that the top four nominees would receive the awards, seconded, and a vote was taken, passing unanimously in favor.

Review Way-Klingler Fellowship Nominations -
There was brief discussion on the top nominees in the sciences first. A motion was made that the top ranked nominee would receive the award, seconded, and a vote was taken, passing unanimously in favor.

Next, the top humanities nominees were discussed briefly. A motion was made that the top ranked nominee would receive the award, seconded, and a vote was taken, passing unanimously in favor.

In the conversation that followed, it was recommended to have a form included in the application so that the nominee fills in some of the required information, making a more efficient process for the COR members. It would also be helpful to have information provided on the
quality of publications and how they are evaluated in the discipline. A form will need to be designed for future applications. This will be future agenda item.

Promoting Research Objectivity Policy –

The revised document was shared with the members ahead of time and Ms. Durben highlighted some of the changes that had been made and why. She also explained that a web based training program is being considered. It would be helpful if MCW, UWM, MU could use the same program.

There was some discussion about conflict of interest and exactly how and when financial interests have to be reported. Some areas of confusion will be clarified with Doug Smith. There was also some confusion over the description of senior key personnel and chief investigators. The language will be modified to clarify the descriptions and requirements.

It was also pointed out that the title of the policy, “Promoting Objectivity in Research” doesn’t adequately describe what the document is. It was recommended to rename it using perhaps, “Conflict of Interest Policy”. Ms. Durben will bring the forms that go along with this policy to the next meeting and walk through the process with members.

Other:

Lastly, it was recommended that at a future meeting the COR could make plans for contributing information to Fr. Pilarz towards strategic planning. In the meantime, it was recommended to look for examples of institutions that are good models.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.