Committee on Research Minutes  
of the 2/19/14 meeting

Present: Steven Goldzwig, Jeanne Hossenlopp, Tim McMahon, Kristy Nielson, Chris Okunseri, Chad Oldfather, William Pink, Joe Schimmels, Robert Topp, Olga Yakusheva

Also Present: Melody Baker (note taker), Kathy Durben (ORSP), Austin Fritsch (ORC), Kevin Gibson (Grad School)

Excused: SuJean Choi, Raj Rathore

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

Reports:

Report from the Vice Provost for Research –
The next edition of Discover magazine has been proofed and will be published soon.
Dr. Hossenlopp will continue working with Advancement and will be going to meet with some donors in May to help fundraise for scholarships.
NSF reports are going in now. MU has doubled R & D expenditures over the past 5 years and there is still potential for improvement. MU will also be reporting more PhD level staff scientists.
As far as the budget, no changes are expected for COR activities and initiatives. Lastly, a plan for high performance computing upgrades is being developed.

Report from the Chair –
Dr. McMahon has met with OMC and suggested OMC attend the beginning portion of every meeting. He will be having ongoing discussions. COR officers met with UBGS officers to discuss the upcoming Faculty Forum which is on today’s agenda.

Report from the Director of ORSP –
Ms. Durben distributed a handout of applications, awards, and research activities for the last month. She has asked OMC for a twitter account to post research news to. Lastly, new staff member Mindy Williams started this week.

Report from ORC –
Annual required reports have been sent to agencies and everything was found to be compliant. A few research faculty are looking to collaborate with MCW and make use of their facilities also. ORC received approval to expand their part time technician position to full. Currently, the position is open and applications are being accepted.

Business:
Review Way-Klingler Young Scholar nominations, select awardees –

The top four applicants were discussed and the committee agreed with the final outcome.

Review Way-Klingler Fellowship nominations, select awardees –

After brief discussion the committee agreed to award the top ranked applicant in the humanities and social sciences category.

Because the top two applicants in the natural and applied sciences were ranked so closely there was some discussion over both of them. After hearing different points of view, members were given the opportunity to change their ranking and will award the top ranked applicant.

At a future meeting discuss whether the COR should give feedback to denied applicants on how to improve their application.

SFF/RRG Guidelines – any further improvements?

It was pointed out that word limits and layperson verbiage are the areas of the applications that are most often neglected. Some members feel that Chairs should be verifying this before signing off on the applications.

It was pointed out that the format used is an old NIH style. It may be clearer to discard the heading “Background” and use “Significance and Innovation” instead.

This discussion will be continued at the next meeting and members are asked to bring specific wording.

Topics for Faculty Forum –

Scheduled for March 27th, the tables will have a central topic around which ideas will be discussed to culminate in a detailed proposal. Dr. McMahon listed the themes and asked members to think about topics that would fall under those themes:

1. Connecting more undergraduates into research
2. Building sustainable cross-disciplinary collaborative research
3. Enhancing research that promotes Social Innovation
4. Developing an alumni-funded research initiative
5. Creating a comprehensive marketing program to disseminate Marquette's research accomplishments more broadly.

A recommendation was made to add graduate student research. Another was to encourage more grad student inclusion on publications.

A suggestion was also made for more faculty shared governance in policies and procedures that affect research (i.e. comptroller & IT). While this is a worthy topic, it was decided that the forum would not be the place for it. However, it should be on a future COR agenda.

At the forum, faculty will be able to rotate among 5 – 6 tables of various topics for a set period of time. It is assumed that there will probably be time to sit at two different tables. It is necessary to make sure there is someone who can facilitate the
conversations at each table. A suggestion was made to try a speed dating format so people could get to more tables. There was some opinion that sometimes the conversations lagged last year.

*Clusters / Gaps –*  
Dr. Gibson is still searching for ways to capture the research that is being done on campus and how this information can be used to form clusters and facilitate collaborations. It may be useful to build a database going forward with key words. However, the micro level task of looking at all faculty publications is overwhelming. A more reasonable starting place is needed. It was suggested to ask deans to submit the areas of research in their colleges to the grad school in order to create lists and identify clusters. If a web infrastructure could be designed to store this list, it could be used by individual faculty to see if they fit under any of those areas and if collaborations are possible. Dr. Hossenlopp will try to poll deans for information.

*COR Membership Discussion –*  
It was briefly discussed that the GSO has asked whether it would be possible to have grad student representation on the COR. Most members feel that the content of some discussions would not be appropriate to include students in. However, they would entertain the idea of specific meetings that could include grad students.

The meeting adjourned at 11:02am.