Committee on Research Minutes
of the 3/19/14 meeting

Present: SuJean Choi, Steven Goldzwig, Jeanne Hossenlopp, Tim McMahon, Kristy Nielson, Chad Oldfather, William Pink, Robert Topp

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

Excused: Chris Okunseri, Raj Rathore, Joe Schimmels, Olga Yakusheva

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 –
Dr. Hossenlopp reported that she has discussed course buy-out costs with the Dean’s Council. Looking at other universities, she has found a lot of variation on the percent of a grant that goes to faculty salary. 12% of a faculty salary is required to buy out a course at most places, but it can go as high as 20% in other institutions. While most deans are comfortable with 12.5%, flexibility is needed. An unavoidable tension is that a buyout would take regular faculty out of the classroom. There is a need to balance accreditation requirements with Carnegie expectations. It was pointed out that the cost to buy out a course is more that the cost to replace the faculty position with an adjunct. Indirect costs are also being negotiated, and a written policy is in the planning stages. This this discussion will be continued with the deans.

R&D expenditures were submitted to the NSF in January with an increase. Dr. Hossenlopp would like to set the next goal at $30 million.

Attending the AJCU Grad meeting last week, Dr. Hossenlopp noted all universities are having similar issues.

Report from the Chair-
Dr. McMahon reminded members that the Faculty Forum will be held next week on March 27th. A facilitator and note taker from COR or UBGS is needed at each table.

Report from the Director of ORSP –
Ms. Durben shared a handout of ORSP events, application totals, and award totals. She also briefly described strategic planning for ORSP and the challenge of increasing grant applications. ORSP will be making some updates to the website which should facilitate this.

Lastly, Ms. Durben reported on the participation of several faculty with the Betty Brinn Children’s Museum to increase the educational value of exhibits and evaluate outcomes.
Report from ORC –

Mr. Kennedy reported that radiation safety waste and disposal is running smoothly. Also, the animal lab tech position has been filled.

Lastly, he recently attended a meeting on joint efforts with CTSI, MCW, UWM, and other local institutions on community engagement for Latino youths and health issues: translating consent forms, etc.

Business:

SFF/RRG Guideline improvements –

Suggestions made at the last meeting have been incorporated into the guidelines. Today discussion continued on the text: “Incomplete or ineligible applications will be returned without review.” There were conflicting opinions among members on whether this should be held to:

- Is it fair if one person worked hard to stay within the guidelines, to equally consider an application that did not meet the guidelines?
- Applications that do not follow guidelines should not be considered at all.
- The committee should have the prerogative to either dismiss that application or mark down the scores.

A recommendation was made to add a statement to the cover page to make it the signing chairs responsibility to make sure it meets the guidelines before signing off, however, there was opposition to this idea.

It was suggested to discuss this at a chair’s workshop, and encourage chairs to monitor their faculty applications.

A suggestion was made to require the applicant to do the word count and enter it in a box at the end of the abstract. Members were agreeable to this and Dr. McMahon will write an additional line for insertion on the application regarding the abstract word count.

Applicants will be notified that the guidelines have been revised and should be followed.

New applicants could also be advised talk to faculty who have been successful applicants.

Faculty Forum (March 27) -

The first third of the forum will include opening with a discussion of a summary from last year, goals for this year, how to implement those goals. A brainstorming session will follow to produce thoughts for table talks. The table sessions will be based on three primary topics: connecting more students into research, building sustainable cross disciplinary collaborative research, and enhancing research with direct societal impact and that promotes social innovation. Each topic will get subtopics that will be discussed at the tables. Ideas will be generated to how these link to strategic plan for Research in Action. Participants should consider recommendations that will produce real action. There will be two tables for each of three topics. Faculty input will also be solicited on what is necessary to make a strategic pool of funding work?
Dr. McMahon asked members who would be attending, and if they would be willing to serve as facilitators or note takers. Members that will attend:

Tom Pionek, OMC (UA will send a representative as well)
Kristy Nielson – note taker
Kathy Durben – note taker – prefers sustainable cross disciplinary
Steve Goldzwig – facilitator – prefers students in research table
SuJean Choi – note taker
Kevin Gibson
Jeanne Hossenlopp – (floating)

There was some discussion on communicating research initiatives to UA. Mr. Pionek added that OMC has regular roundtables with UA and suggested having a research faculty attend and discuss ways that research can easily be talked about. A recommendation was made to require awardees to acknowledge their funding source in research publications. This may generate incentive for contributors.

*Way Klingler Budget Guidelines* –

Currently the guidelines state that funds cannot be used for tuition. Dr. Hossenlopp asked members how they felt about this and if it should be changed. COR members generally agreed that it would be helpful to be able to hire grad students to work on research projects. Dr. Hossenlopp will pursue making this change.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.