Committee on Research Minutes  
of the March/20/13 meeting

Present: Jeanne Hossenlopp, Doug Lobner, Tim McMahon, Jane Peterson, William Pink, Raj Rathore, Joe Schimmels, Robert Topp

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

Excused: Syed Akhter, Arthur Hefti, David Papke, Erik Ugland

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Lobner at 9:05 a.m. The agenda was approved with the additional item of selecting new officers for the next academic year.

Reports:

Report from the Vice Provost for Research –
Dr. Hossenlopp reported that work continues on strategic planning, and it is expected that units will be contributing their own plans in the next academic year. She reminded members of the upcoming Distinguished Scholars reception on March 26th.

Report from the Director of ORSP –
Ms. Durben shared handout of updates to awards and applications to date, as well as upcoming events.

Business:

Final look at the revised SFF/RRG guidelines (attached) –
The latest updates to the application were reviewed with a couple of minor changes requested. A motion was made and seconded to approve the updated application. A vote was taken and it was approved unanimously.

Review COR/UBGS Forum input –
The notes gathered at the joint faculty forum were discussed. Dr. Hossenlopp indicated that she has drawn on the notes in strategic plan discussions. It was recommended to summarize the key points and post them on the faculty forum page of the ORSP website.
The UBGS summary of the notes was also shared with the COR members. Key elements of the COR discussion were:

• There needs to be a real purpose to interdisciplinary research, building from our strengths.
• Bridging undergrads and graduate students was often talked about in the forum.
• The need to be perceived as a research university was also brought up several times.
• Silos are not necessarily negative if people are excelling in what they are doing.
• The perception from the outside is one thing, but the perception from the inside (MU) is often limited also. The general campus is unaware of some interdisciplinary research that has already been taking place for some time, in some departments.

• Departments often hire for teaching needs, rather than research capabilities. It was suggested to have new hires talk to each other about what they do. Ms. Durben has instituted “research lunches” to accomplish this purpose. Some departments do a better job than others to connect their new faculty to others across campus.

• It would be helpful to be able to hire at a higher rank, and hire people who are going to focus solely do research. It would make a big difference to change hiring practices to promote more research and get faculty off to a better start on their program of research.

• Rethink how MU goes about recruiting. Change the perception/appearance of research.

Dr. Lobner asked for someone to write an executive summary of today’s discussion. Dr. Schimmels agreed to do this and share it electronically with the members. The final document will be forwarded to Dr. Hossenlopp.

Executive officers for next year –

Tim McMahon was nominated for the chair position next year. A motion was made and seconded, a vote taken, and passed unanimously. The vice chair and secretary positions will be selected at the first meeting in the fall.

It was decided that no further meetings would be necessary this year and the absent members would be notified of the cancellations.

The meeting adjourned at 9:47am.