Committee on Research Minutes
of the 4/9/14 meeting

Present: SuJean Choi, Steven Goldzwig, Jeanne Hossenlopp, Tim McMahon, Kristy Nielson, Chris Okunseri, William Pink, Joe Schimmels, Olga Yakusheva

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

Excused: Chad Oldfather, Raj Rathore, Robert Topp

The meeting was called to order by Dr. McMahon at 9:07 a.m. The agenda was approved.

Reports:

Report from the Vice Provost for Research-

Dr. Hossenlopp reported that the Distinguished Scholars Reception went well last week. Ed Gruehl enjoyed participating and plans to continue in the future. A goal to double attendance has been set for next year and the help of the COR is needed in reaching that goal. One idea is to recognize the SFF/RRG and FDA awardees by listing them on a poster displayed at the event next year.

Discover magazine is now available for distribution. At yesterday’s Scholarship Donors Participation luncheon, alumni commented on the issue they had received. Dr. Hossenlopp also commented that Nancy Snow’s award is being recognized in various outlets.

Regarding licensing and technology transfer, Tim Keane is leaving MU but will still be in the area. This has created a gap when faculty bring disclosures. Dr. Hossenlopp talking to a local expert that may be able to offer part time contractual work to fill in this gap.

Strategic planning for CTSI is in process, and people from many community health related organizations met together yesterday. Dr. Hossenlopp asked members to send her any ideas on how to make a better impact in the community.

Report from the Graduate Associate Dean–

Dr. Gibson recommends using the CD from the Distinguished Scholars Reception in other areas such as the video screens playing in the AMU and parking structures. It would also help to promote faculty research if the photos on the 4th floor of Zilber should be in a more visible location.

Report from the Chair - no report

Report from the Director of ORSP –
Ms. Durben shared a handout of applications and awards, and upcoming activities. ORSP will launch a new webpage that will enable the tracking of community engagement activities, effort tracking, outcome tracking, and include a mapping feature.

Report from ORC –
There was no representative today, but Dr. Hossenlopp reported that a smaller subcommittee of the IRB has been set up to expedite minor changes.

Business:
Thoughts on Faculty Forum –
Dr. McMahon asked the members to identify common themes that came out of the forum. Themes offered:

• Connecting more students into research. Dr. Hossenlopp commented that students are still being identified as undergrad. A member added that while a lot of ideas about undergrad research are good, they would not be possible without grad student research assistants. The humanities could consider asking grad students to serve as mentors. The sciences simply do not have the manpower to accommodate all the undergrad interest in research. Because of this, mentoring undergrad students in research is often seen as a hobby to faculty. Research for undergrads needs to be part of the curriculum and not an add on. Research should be considered teaching (hands on learning) and faculty need to be integrated into the curriculum. Currently faculty are not credited with mentoring students in research. While people want research for undergrads, some are ok with them researching the already discovered, while others would like them to make new discoveries.
  o Is it possible to create a mini version of grad school for an undergraduate experience? Envision a research track for undergrads who would take research methods, a research survey, be in a lab, and write a thesis. We would need to have faculty with the ability to do this.
  o Start earlier to identify undergrads who have a proclivity for research and are continuing on for a grad degree. Identify and match with faculty who can make a commitment, and grow the passion for research. Send undergrads to outside honors seminars and national competitions. Use grad students to nurture undergrad students. The College of Engineering is looking into the possibilities now.
  o Research process instruction within the university core may be helpful.
  o This may not apply to the College of Business – research is typically only at the graduate level.
  o Developing critical thinking skills can be useful in any discipline. Often when students get to their courses they do not have any assessment skills. Systematize how to tackle a problem. Get the tools – learn to apply them.
  o Advised to look at what other institutions are doing to accomplish this – there are many good examples.
• Building sustainable cross-disciplinary collaborative research
  o Cluster hiring – some departments are intentional about this now. Makes MU more attractive to a candidate.
  o Centers & institutes – can they be degree granting?
  o Eliminate disincentives.
  o Can an institute hire part time faculty and share cost with a department?
  o Solicit donor funding with interest in institutes. Put more thought into naming institutes – not too specified – others must be able to identify with it.

Dr. McMahon stated the goal for the forum discussion is to make a recommendation along with UBGS, to the administration (Academic Senate?). In continued discussion Dr. Hossenlopp posed the question: If she had $50k to give out, what should it be used for? Members responded:
  • Make undergrad student research possible
  • Put it into faculty to generate more research
  • Multi-disciplinary grant for grant writing – must be a new team.
  • Incubator that would foster specific proposals for some time to bring faculty together to move toward a grant (relieve them from other duties)
  • 10k to work out a symbolic gesture to indicate things are changing.
  • Create a structure for how the university needs to move forward to create an environment.
  • This is a successful idea that the College of Communication accomplished: With 15k and faculty with overlapping interests (ethics, values, social justice) – over a summer 5 people, wrote 5 proposals, with 3k each. They have produced enough to do it again this summer.
  • TED (ten) talks about MU researchers – highly produced, slick, to be shared with everyone. Helps advancement, student interest.
  • Hire web coach to help people with more creative web sites.

_Election of Officers for AY15 –_

The members enthusiastically encouraged Dr. McMahon to continue as chair for another term. It was further recommended to keep the same officers for vice chair and secretary. Drs. McMahon, Okunseri, and Nielson graciously agreed to continue serving.

A motion was made and seconded to cancel the May meeting since all business for the academic year is concluded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55am.