Committee on Research Minutes
of the 9/5/12 meeting

Present: Syed Akhter, Arthur Hefti, Jeanne Hossenlopp, Doug Lobner, Tim McMahon, David Papke, Jane Peterson, William Pink, Robert Topp

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

Absent: Raj Rathore, Joe Schimmels, Erik Ugland

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

Reports:

Report from the Vice Provost for Research –
Dr. Hossenlopp reported that after meeting with the COR last year, Fr. Pilarz made it an action item to put faculty in front of the BOT. At the May BOT meeting, a panel of 5 faculty presented research. The trustees, as well as VP’s in attendance were excited and engaged. A similar panel is being planned for University Advancement.

Over the summer, an increase in indirect cost returns was approved, but implementation details are still being worked out.

The provost announced how the additional $100,000 in travel funds would be used to support faculty research/scholarship. The per-trip allocations for Faculty Development Awards, which cover faculty travel to present at conferences, have been doubled. Travel funding for RRGs and a new pilot program for conference travel during sabbaticals will also be supported. Dr. Hossenlopp asked the COR to think about how these additional funds could be used. Members were very supportive of increased funding for RRG travel requests. Dr. Hossenlopp recommended adding $20K to RRGs.

Report from the Director of ORSP –
Ms. Durben reported on award totals for the last fiscal year, sharing handouts of the figures with members and noting there has been some leveling off since the end of stimulus funds. She also updated members on the status of various award programs and reported on current application trends.

Following a new public health service requirement for a financial conflict of interest policy, a document for MU was written last spring and approved by the Academic Senate and Provost over the summer. Required training has been implemented, with 20 faculty completing the training so far.

A handout of ORSP sponsored events was also given to members.

Report from ORC –
Mr. Kennedy reported that a state inspection this summer went well with only some minor infractions that have since been corrected.
Dr. Lobner added that an AALAC inspection of the animal facility this summer went well also.

**New Business:**

*Election of Vice Chair and Secretary* –

Dr. Pink volunteered to serve as secretary again this year. Dr. McMahon was nominated to serve as Vice Chair and agreed after some discussion with Dr. Lobner.

*Volunteer Opportunity* –

Online survey review group COR representation was needed. Dr. Topp volunteered to serve.

*Discuss Priorities for 2012-2013* –

Dr. Lobner reminded the members that strategic planning is taking place this year. Dr. Hossenlopp was able to describe some of the areas that would be studied this year, which includes a research piece. Environmental scanning information to be gathered will include identifying funding opportunities for different disciplines. The COR could be helpful in making sure that faculty research is highlighted. Dr. Gibson recommended using the online version of the Faculty Activity Report (FAR) for data. Dr. Papke added that the Law School lists a monthly report of faculty publications. Dr. Hefti pointed out that the FAR is currently a work in progress and not everyone is participating yet. Dr. Gibson also pointed out that grad students are publishing also, but there is no good source to obtain that information. Dr. Hossenlopp said that one task is to develop a set of metrics to track scholarly activity. This is difficult so far to pin down to one set of metrics due to the variation among colleges and departments. In discussion it was evident the different colleges track their faculty activity in different ways.

Ms. Durben stated that she has seen the format for all FAR reports and while there is core data that is the same across colleges, there are required data specific to colleges/departments. It was decided that each member would bring their department’s FAR to the next meeting.

There was some discussion on how co-authoring is viewed differently between colleges. It was also pointed out that the campus should discuss emerging publication outlets, such as open-access electronic journals.

Other topics to consider:

- What are the research themes for campus, what is cutting edge?
- List of research funding needs.
- How to state that better efforts need to be made by MU in advancing research and raising funding in order to achieve research goals. Dr. Hossenlopp reminded members that the college deans also identify priorities.

A recommendation was made to start with the plan that COR has previously developed. Members were also recommended to read the statement on research on the strategic planning website.

The meeting adjourned at 10:24.