Committee on Research Minutes  
of the 9/10/14 meeting

Present: SuJean Choi, Abdur Chowdhury, Kim Factor, Jeanne Hossenlopp, Sarah Knox, Tim McMahon, Kristy Nielson, Chad Oldfather, Joe Schimmels, 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, Sarah Feldner

The meeting was called to order by Dr. McMahon at 9:05 a.m. The agenda was approved.

Reports:

Report from the Vice Provost for Research -

Dr. Hossenlopp reported that innovation and research are very important with the new leadership and encouraged members to hear the inauguration address. Dr. Hossenlopp will have an active part in promoting new initiatives. Last week she attended a meeting at the Global Water Center, where a space is being held for MU to have a presence there. A campus meeting will be held in the future to decide how best to make use of this space. MU will also eventually have a presence at the UWM innovation campus. Overall, MU presence in the broader community is important.

At Dr. Hossenlopp’s request, Dr. Topp announced that on October 17th a workshop will be held on campus that will bring together scientists interested in nutrition and health with others in the community. He went on to describe some of the research involvement of those participating.

A member asked if there will be a conversation about what MU’s focus will be and Dr. Hossenlopp responded that some initiatives have already been identified by the President, with more opportunities expected to be revealed. Today’s discussion will include strategic planning.

Mr. Pionek announced that Discover magazine was mailed to all alumni over the age of 45, and emailed to alumni under 45. A note from President Lovell was included with it. Story ideas are already being explored for the next issue. Dr. McMahon thanked Tom for being committed to COR attendance.

Report from the Chair -

Dr. McMahon asked all members to introduce themselves and then went on to describe the committee activities and upcoming SFF/RRG competition and expectations, reminding members that SFF/RRG applications will be in an electronic form for the first time this year. He described the various award reviews that will take place over the year, and the opportunity to set new goals for this year. He expects that the committee will come up with some new ideas.
**Report from the Director of ORSP –**

Ms. Durben distributed handouts reporting fiscal year applications and research awards, as well as an increasing licensing revenue. She also noted that ORSP monitors COR award progress and external application requirements. Ms. Durben also reported on: the activities and successes of the cohort, changes in NIH requirements, a need for an MU presence on the WI humanities council, the activities of ORSP and projects being worked on and workshops being offered. A summary annual report was also distributed to members.

**Report from ORC –**

Mr. Kennedy reported on activities with researchers and described resources available and templates that are being created. He also mentioned that for IRB’s being referred to MCW, a webpage is being created to inform and prepare researchers. A new online training program, customized for MU, is now available and will include continuing education.

Mr. Fritsch reported that an accreditation interview is coming up with AAALAC.

**Business:**

**Strategic planning –**

Dr. Hossenlopp informed members that the university is still going forward with the strategic plan that was created. Topics that came out of the Joint Faculty Forum last spring were shared with deans to help inform their discussions as planning goes forward.

One objective is to raise the Carnegie classification. Dr. Hossenlopp described the major categories that will put MU in the appropriate classification, including research and development expenditures. She went on to explain what kinds of expenditures should be counted and how the comptroller’s office is now helping to identify these expenditures. The number of PhD’s is also counted. MU’s PhD graduate numbers have been flat for several years with a little fluctuation. An increase in the number of assistantships would help increase this number.

Dr. Hossenlopp also noted that there is an ongoing conversation regarding indirect cost returns.

**Priorities for 2014 – 15 –**

Members discussed what priorities COR should identify for this year.

Suggestions included:

- The policy on research misconduct is something that members should look at. It was agreed that this will be on the October agenda.
- Stem cell research policy is another one. A subcommittee will meet on this first (Dr. Choi will volunteered to represent COR on the subcommittee) and it will come to COR sometime later.
- Undergraduate research
• How to communicate COR priorities to a broader audience

• Invite President Lovell to attend a meeting to discuss COR priorities. Members agreed that they should come to an agreement on those priorities prior to meeting with the president.

• A member requested a report of colleagues in his/her department that have not fulfilled SFF/RRG requirements as a means to follow up with them.

• Align SFF/RRG applications with the priorities of the university.

• Solicit a response to the ORSP annual report from the colleges.

• Policies created by administration that affect research should be vetted by faculty first. Dr. McMahon requested an ad hoc subcommittee be formed to investigate how other universities manage this. (Dr. Okunseri and Dr. Topp will be on the subcommittee.) Dr. Hossenlopp recommended that it would be helpful to include business managers on the subcommittee.

• How MU can consider the bigger picture in hiring, and in promotion and tenure practices, to would help reach university goals.

• How to encourage mid-career faculty to increase productivity and get engaged. It was suggested that a cultural change may be needed to encourage continual growth and productivity, that faculty should think is terms of their responsibility to other colleagues.

• Some areas need incentives to advance to professor. Concern was voiced for people who were hired 20 years ago, who were not hired to do applied research, but rather pure/fundamental research. When evaluating faculty this must kept in context. One member described a regular review process that is used to encourage research productivity. Another member mentioned that research dollars are an incentive in some departments with a 9 month salary structure, allowing faculty to recoup 3 months of salary. In other departments, faculty who are teaching intensive help lessen the load on colleagues who are research intensive. The cultural differences in departments, and varying requirements for promotion should be noted.

• External promotion of research (students on tour do not see it, and professors don’t tell students about their own research).

The discussion on priorities will continue next month. The meeting adjourned at 10:55am.