COR MINUTES

To: COR Members
From: Jeanne Hossenlopp
Date: 10/5/11
Re: Marquette University Committee on Research
Approved Minutes/ October 5, 2011 Meeting

Present: David Clark, Richard Friman, Arthur Hefti, Jeanne Hossenlopp, Tom Jablonsky, Kyle Kim, Doug Lobner, David Papke, William Pink, Raj Rathore, Marianne Weiss
Excused: Austin Fritsch, Beth McDonough, Erik Ugland
Also Present: Melody Baker (note taker), Robert Topp (NURS), Helen Boomsma (UA), Kathleen Ludington (UA)

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 she has been working with Tim Keane and University Advancement to find support for research activities that involve technology transfer. Also, the Consortium for Health Care and Economics is still undefined, but is being worked on, and receiving favorable faculty response.

Report from the Chair – No report.

Report from ORSP –
Ms. Durben reported grant figures to date and in comparison to last year (down slightly from last year) and described some of the projects currently being funded.

Upcoming ORSP events include: Forward Thinking Poster Session – there are 47 entries and this year’s event will be held along with the OIE international poster session on Nov 29th, One Thing Led to Another (faculty research stories) October 11th, and Why Grants Matter workshop on Nov 14th.

Report for ORC –
No report. Dr. Hossenlopp announced that Beth McDonough has resigned and a search for her replacement will start soon. Regarding the search for the ORSP Director, 5 candidates will be invited to a phone interview.

Discussion with Advancement
Ms. Boomsma and Ms. Ludington joined the meeting. The following Q & A took place:

Q. How is University Advancement (UA) organized?
A. H. Boomsma – UA is organized into 4 – 5 broad areas, with the main focus on principle gifts. Most UA fundraisers work with principle gift donors – people who have the passion to invest in the university. Other fundraisers work with corporations and foundations and with individuals on their estate plans. Staff in the College Advancement department work closely with the academic side,
providing advancement directors that work with individual deans, meeting weekly to gather information to be used with the hundreds of alumni they meet with each year. Also, deans are made aware of any advancement activities that may be beneficial for them to attend.

Q. How many employees work in UA?
A. H. Boomsma – 155.

Q. How much money was raised last year?
A. H. Boomsma - $74 million dollars, mostly for scholarship.

Q. Who would we talk to about making research funding a priority?
A. H. Boomsma – Priorities are set by Fr. Pilarz, the Provost and the trustees. Dr. Hossenlopp added that fundraising for any major capital project would be discussed with campus academic leadership but would also need approval from the Board of Trustees. Due to the fact that currently unfunded scholarship aid comes out of the University’s operating budget, any donor funding for scholarship benefits this budget, freeing funds for other expenses.

Q. In the past 5 years what donations were made towards research?
A. H. Boomsma – This type of donation mostly comes through ORSP. The Way Klingler endowment, started in 2005, was the last major donation targeting faculty development (including research as a primary goal).

Q. What can faculty do to assist UA in getting more money for research?
A. K. Ludington – Some MU researchers are going on visits with donors, relationships are being cultivated. While a donor may have a personal interest in a particular research, it may take years to actually get a donation. Ms. Boomsma added that being invited here today is a good first step. Kathleen is the liaison to the graduate school and research offices and realizes there is a need to raise awareness among alumni on how research benefits the university and community. Our own fundraisers need to be better educated in MU research activities also.

Ms. Ludington shared a menu of giving options for graduate school financial aid that she uses that will also be presented to all fundraisers in UA. She also stated that they (UA) could use help with research stories. It’s good for donors to know about collaborations that are going on. She is in the process of collecting information and producing pamphlets.

Q. One of the COR’s concerns is the level of funding in general, and how to get the message in literature that unencumbered general research money is needed.
A. H. Boomsma – Some donors just want to support MU without having a specific place, they just want to help where it’s most needed. UA needs the language to be able to express this need to donors. $70 million is spent by MU on unfunded scholarship (which comes out of the operating budget) so most undesignated funds go towards offsetting this.

Q. Are certain pools of donors off limits?
A. H. Boomsma – If a donor has expressed a specific passion, then yes, it would be inappropriate to approach them about other areas. The giving history and attributes of alums are sorted for the most effectiveness. A college’s UA representative would work with the college dean and chair to identify potential donors. If a faculty has a relationship with a past student or parent, this is also a potential area for gifts. UA staff work in coordination with each other so donors are not inundated from several people for money.

Q. We have not heard anything that addresses interest in the humanities, with four doctoral based departments, and approximately 90 faculty.
A. H. Boomsma – We do have prospects interested in Philosophy, History, and Theology though it’s not as big an interest in scholarship. The English department started a group they call FAME – Friends & Alumni of Marquette English, which was organized to promote department specific events and reach out to alumni. This fills a need to renew feelings of connectedness.
UA will be just starting at the end of October to explore the possibilities of raising research support. ORSP, A&S, and UA are working together on an NEH grant for the humanities that would require matching donor support. The Way Klingler and Haggerty donations have been leveraged well towards research. It may be helpful to look at records of the effectiveness for these awards over the years and share the results with donors to help promote investment decisions in research.

Q. Telling faculty stories – is it being done as well as it could be? For example, do fundraisers know Alzheimer’s research is being done?

A. H. Boomsma – The College Today pieces are meant to highlight research happening in each college.

New Business:

SFF/RRG applications (Distributed today)

Dr. Jablonsky, Dr. Lobner, and Dr. Pink will assign primary and secondary readers for each group. The ranking sheets will be sent to members electronically. Total applications received are up by 4 and funding requested is up by $30,659.00.

SFF RRG Review Process –

Dr. Hossenlopp will be increasing the budget for SFF’s this year and total available funds for each group will again be determined by the number of applications received. She also asked members, when giving feedback this year, to let applicants know what they can do to be more competitive. There was discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of providing specific feedback.

Dr. Lobner discussed the general procedure for the proposals. The issue of junior versus senior faculty was discussed and it was pointed out that there are no rules regarding this. It would be inappropriate to disregard an applicant just because they are senior faculty. It was also pointed out that due to MU transitions and the increased number of junior faculty that will be at MU, it may be time to consider that this award should be made specifically for junior faculty. This will be included on the December agenda for further discussion.

Dr. Hossenlopp informed members that the Academic Senate has asked for a summary of the awards made. Members recommended this should also include the number of worthy proposals that were not funded.

Carnegie Classification –

Data were provided ahead of time showing MU is now on the lowest level of doctoral universities although close to being in the next level. Dr. Hossenlopp is working with finance to improve reporting, but MU can be doing more in non-STEM disciplines to increase external research support. Also, the number of PhD’s can increase, particularly in STEM disciplines.

A member recommended creating a strategy and setting a goal for how many PhDs, and how much funding MU needs to generate in order to reach the next category.

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 am.