COR MINUTES

To: COR Members
From: Jeanne Hossenlopp
Date: 10/06/10
Re: Marquette University Committee on Research
Approved Minutes/ October 6, 2010 Meeting

Present: David Clark, Javier Foronda, Richard Friman, Arthur Hefti, Jeanne Hossenlopp, Tom Jablonsky, Doug Lobner, Steve Melching, Keith Osterhage, David Papke, William Pink, Marianne Weiss, Joyce Wolburg, Pinfen Yang

Excused: 
Also Present: Melody Baker (note taker)

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

Reports:
Report from the Vice Provost for Research
Dr. Hossenlopp announced that letters of intent for seed money were recently submitted to CTSI for pilot grants, including some from Marquette. There will also be opportunities for people in the social sciences to participate in future CTSI work, given the need to examine community engagement with clinical and translational research results.

A meeting was held recently regarding the next issue of the DISCOVER: Marquette University Research and Scholarship magazine, and distribution was discussed. It is currently distributed to about 10,000 people, but ideas are on the table to increase the distribution and broaden its reach. Budget considerations will put some limits on how much the distribution can increase this year. The research website is being reviewed for continuing improvements.

Report from the Chair – no report

Report from the Director of ORSP
Mr. Osterhage reported that current numbers are even with last year; approximately $11,160,000 in award dollars has been received.

Report from ORC
Mr. Foronda reported that IACUC has approved a new animal research protocol form and it can be found on the website. This should now be used by anyone conducting animal research. Also, a new recording system for approvals of known registered pathogens will be available soon. Mr. Foronda also reported that the ORC has seen an increase in animal research.

New Business:
Evaluation of Way Klingler Awards
As mentioned at the last meeting, there will be only one Way Klingler Fellowship award this year due to a decreased endowment, which will go to the Humanities/Social Sciences. Next year’s award will go to the Sciences.

The reporting of the SFF/RRG’s was also discussed.
The use of primary, secondary, and tertiary readers for the SFF/RRG proposal reviews was discussed. A recommendation was made to drop the tertiary position as it does not really add anything to the process. Although members agreed that all reviewers should read all proposals in their group, they agreed that comments from a primary and secondary reviewer to the applicant are sufficient. A motion was made to eliminate the assignment of the tertiary reviewer, seconded, voted, and passed unanimously. The members agreed this would start with this year’s proposals. Members also discussed their preference to not be primary readers for proposals from their own departments.

**Provost’s Strategic Commitments (attachment)**

A document from the provost, *IMAGINING MARQUETTE’S STRATEGIC COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, 2010-13*, was shared with the members. Dr. Hossenlopp explained that as part of transitional year in terms of presidential leadership, this is thought of as a bridge towards a strategic plan that would be developed after the new president starts. The provost has had discussions with deans regarding this topic and also wants input from faculty. The question before the Committee is what research-related topics should be the focus of the next stages of development of university-wide strategic commitments?

Discussion continued concerning whether there is anything new in the current document compared to past strategic plans. A recommendation was made that the COR revisit the strategic plan it developed two years ago, work with its own document, and restate its priorities. Dr. Hossenlopp asked the group what the highest priorities were when the COR wrote their strategic plan, and members identified three things: lowering the teaching loads, increasing the number of doctoral faculty, and setting a goal of $30 – 35 million in research dollars within 5 years. Funding was identified as an ongoing issue in trying to accomplish any of these goals. Mr. Osterhage reminded the members that part of the F&A study last year was to try to manage a way to get funding. At the end of the discussion, the committee agreed to review the COR strategic plan at the next meeting.

This led to a general discussion regarding the value of research. A number of questions arose including:

- Does Marquette want to be a research university?
- What is the value of research to the university?
- Can a monetary value be placed on research?
- What is the value of undergraduate research? Is the primary value to students (to encourage them in a future career path), to the faculty (building a mentoring relationship), or to the university (recognition, visibility, ranking)?
- What does research mean to the faculty member aside beyond tenure and promotion? (Is research something faculty members do primarily because they are required to do so?)
- Realistically, how can the university increase its research productivity without greater resources?

In general the belief was that discussions on research have never been put into a context of undergraduate research; thus, discussions with upper administration on undergraduate research (an expense largely shouldered by faculty) need to be held. If MU wants to be a research institution, there should be some commitment to that goal. Yet to some, there is a perception that there has been no challenge to grow, and that it is safer to stay under the radar. To change the culture, MU must demonstrate the benefits of research to the university and the importance of research to the University’s mission. COR can take an active role in promoting the importance of research and in having this discussion with a broader range of university audiences. One idea offered is to have student alumni tell how research has had an impact on them.
Given the ongoing discussion regarding the need to better educate university decision makers on the importance of research, representatives from the Office of Marketing and Communication will be invited to a future COR meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:37.