Committee on Research Minutes
of the 10/8/14 meeting

Present: SuJean Choi, Kim Factor, Sarah Feldner, Jeanne Hossenlopp, Sarah Knox, Tim McMahon, Chris Okunseri, Chad Oldfather, Joe Schimmels

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

Excused: Abdur Chowdhury, Kristy Nielson, Robert Topp

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

Reports:

Report from the Vice Provost for Research –
Dr. Hossenlopp encouraged all members to attend the open forum with President Lovell next Tuesday from 3:30 - 4:30pm. The Global Water Center and Innovation Campus will be discussed along with information on applying for innovation funds. Questions and ideas are encouraged.

The additional mailing of the 2014 Discover magazine sent in August to a broader base of alums has resulted in positive responses, including a check from one alum to be put towards research in obesity.

Marquette is hosting the CTSI (Clinical Translational Science Institute)/IUAN (Institute for Urban Agriculture and Nutrition) conference on October 17th. Dr. Hossenlopp encouraged members to register and attend.

Dr. Hossenlopp reported that CTSI is applying for the next round of funding to support collaborations.

Report from the Chair –
Dr. McMahon reported that the initiatives presented in the President’s inaugural address are promising opportunities and there is more to come.

This year’s SFF/RRG competition shows a significant increase in the number of applications and the amount applied for.

Report from the Director of ORSP –
Ms. Durben distributed a report of applications and awards to date. She also pointed out that several proposals were funded in September when NIH had excess funds and reached back to proposals that were passed over earlier. Other announcements included a forum that was held, a patent that was issued, and a new license agreement that is going forward.

Business:
SFF/RRG applications and procedures –
Dr. McMahon discussed the procedures, division of groups, and responsibilities of reviewers. The SharePoint site was displayed and reviewed along with the ranking sheet.

**Continuation of Brainstorming Priorities**

Members discussed once again the possibility of meeting with the deans to discuss research concerns and ideas and some of the topics to be discussed in that meeting. Suggestions discussed and agreed on were:

- **Share the comparative data that was presented in the September meeting.**
  Some members found this very informative and helpful. It was discussed to take into consideration that one can’t equally compare, or use the same measure, for all disciplines, and that grants aren’t available to all disciplines, even though research and publications are still being done by those who do not have grants. It was also suggested to give this to all attendees ahead of time so that everyone is prepared for discussion.

- **Mid-career faculty:** Questions need to be framed in a way that encourages mid-career faculty. It is hoped that if the deans agree, they can suggest additional incentives and training that can be made available. It was recommended to keep this topic conversational, not confrontational.

- **Roadblocks to research:** hiring processes, lack of grad student assistantships, post docs reporting to administrators. Discussion ensured on the purpose of the COR and members offered that it is to: promote research at all venues and participate in ways to collaboratively increase the visibility of research at MU. It was recommended to frame the conversation in a productive way that will foster a much needed culture change. This message then needs to be conveyed externally and internally.

The topics (which were narrow to four) were summarized as: 1) Comparative data (It was suggested that Dr. Hossenlopp could share this data in a Dean’s Council to spur the conversation), 2) Mid-career faculty encouragement, 3) Address administrative impediments, 4) Frame the discussion to promote MU as a research institution.

Dr. Feldner added that when she was in the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) she started to organize resources that may now be available. This was organized to address the desire among mid-career faculty for resources.

The topic of research clusters was revisited and Dr. Hossenlopp asked if the COR would be interested in receiving funds to hold nucleating meetings that would lead to collaborations. She also recommended reading the book, *Engines of Innovation*, and will see if it is possible to get copies for members. It was recommended to propose clusters, and then let faculty react, and modify as necessary. A super cluster of water, energy, technology could be proposed to get people together to see how they would participate, and then form subgroups. It was also pointed out that faculty in some disciplines would just not be able to connect with those clusters. It was recommended instead, to focus research questions towards a larger common goal. For example, how
can we improve our city? A common cause may more easily generate clusters from a broad spectrum of disciplines. Some faculty can better relate to a problem driven goal. This could also be perfect for mid-career faculty who may see this as a new opportunity. It was suggested that some might want to solve a global problem, but countered that solving local problems, could apply globally.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50am.