Committee on Research Minutes
of the 10/9/13 meeting

Present: SuJean Choi, James Gardinier, Steven Goldzwig, Jeanne Hossenlopp, Tim McMahon, Kristy Nielsen, Chris Okunseri, Chad Oldfather, William Pink, Joe Schimmels, Robert Topp, Olga Yakusheva

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

Excused:

The meeting was called to order by Dr. McMahon at 9:06 a.m. The agenda was approved.

Reports:

Report from the Vice Provost for Research –
Dr. Hossenlopp briefly discussed the recent HLC meetings and thanked everyone who participated.

Dr. Hossenlopp also reported that she has met with the new VP for Advancement and he would like to meet with the COR. She also met with the VP for Marketing and Communication who is also interested in attending a COR meeting. Some topics that were discussed included, promoting research, press releases, Marquette Magazine ideas, etc. A member asked if MU research has a presence in social media and recommended that this would be a good area to promote research news.

Report from the Chair –
Dr. McMahon described the joint meeting between COR and UBGS with the HLC. Members who attended this meeting added that they felt it was very productive and that good questions were asked.

Report from the Director of ORSP –
Ms. Durben shared a printed report from ORSP and explained that it is not clear yet how the government shutdown would affect grants.

There is an ongoing effort to get responses from employees who have not yet signed the document on Assignment of Intellectual Property Rights. ORSP is offering to give presentations on this topic to any departments who would like one.

The Betty Brinn Children’s Museum would like to work with MU researchers to install research related educational activities in the museum. Kathy invited anyone who is interested in participating to attend a meeting with the director on October 23rd.

The annual Forward Thinking Poster Session will be held on December 3. ORSP will be offering tips for developing posters on the website. Judges will be needed.
Report from ORC – no report

Business:
Distribution of SFF/RRG applications –
Dr. McMahon explained the three groups, guidelines, and ranking sheets. The procedure for November 13th was also discussed.

Work load and buy out challenges–
How much of your salary should it cost to buy out of a course? Dr. Hossenlopp researched institutions across the country and found that guidelines are typically set at the college level. Buy out amounts vary within MU as well as other institutions, and some have built in incentives. Dr. Hossenlopp will be discussing this topic at the next Dean’s Council. Any policy on buy outs must be transparent, fair, and flexible. A recommendation was made to note standard teaching loads when looking at buy out percentages at other institutions. Dr. Hossenlopp asked anyone who has information on other institutions or ideas for models to send them to her.

It was also pointed out that there is a disincentive for senior faculty to buy out because it costs them more than it does junior faculty, while often the same amount of work is being done. Many institutions include actual maximum amount of time in equivalencies. The College of Business has a model that seems to work.

Strategic Planning –
Dr. Hossenlopp said an unresolved question is, what is a strategically defined research area? One suggestion sent to Dr. Hossenlopp is to use faculty activity reports as a metric. Opinions offered at today’s meeting included:

- Figure out how to gauge expertise: perhaps by activity, grants, publication.
- Look at the performance of a college as a whole, and use this to set expectations.
- Look at what MU does well in categories. For example, ethics – some departments do it well. This would also be more cross discipline.
- Promote intellectual engagement across campus, to foster intellectual culture, research culture, and bring interdisciplinary people together.
- Strategic spending should be evenly distributed across campus because there could be potential for growth anywhere.
- Form institutes or centers dedicated to research, and as a collaborative effort, faculty could have joint appointments, multidisciplinary units.
- Concentrate on what is already strong – it’s likely these areas could be increased with little effort and then that momentum can be used to start more grass roots opportunities.
- Consider measures – how many publications, how many grants.
- Hire to complement strengths. It was countered that not every department has that luxury.
- Can non-tenured faculty be used to free time up for teacher/scholars?
• Allow people at interview to indicate how much time would be spent for teaching and research.

• Some institutions have two tenure tracks – one for teaching, one for research.

Dr. McMahon said this discussion will be continued and the meeting adjourned at 10:54am.