Committee on Research

Description of Charge
The Committee on Research (COR) is a University Academic Senate (UAS) committee. At the crux of our work is the formulation of policy concerning the conduct of research and the ongoing review of the university’s research effort in order to make recommendations to the Vice Provost for Research. In 2014/2015, COR worked continued to work alongside the University Board of Graduate Studies to advise the Vice Provost for Research on ways to address the Research in Action plank of the University’s Strategic Plan until President Lovell formally split the duties of the Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School to create the separate position of Vice President for Research and Innovation. The committee’s formal charge is listed in Section 7.02 on page 13 of the UAS Statutes, and COR has formally recommended updating the language of this statute to reflect the new position of Vice President for Research and Innovation. That recommendation is to be voted on by the UAS in May 2015. (http://www.marquette.edu/acad/documents/StatutesoftheUniversityAcademicSenateupdatedSept222009_002.pdf)

2014-2015 Officers and Members:
Voting Members:
Timothy G. McMahon (College of Arts & Sciences: History), Chair
Christopher Okunseri (School of Dentistry: Clinical Services), Vice Chair
Kristy Nielson (College of Arts & Sciences: Psychology), Recording Secretary
Sujean Choi (College of Health Sciences: Biomedical Science)
Ahdur Chowdhury (College of Business Administration: Economics)
Kim Factor (College of Arts & Sciences: MSCS)
Sarah Feldner (College of Communication: Communication Studies)
Sarah Knox (College of Education)
Donnalee McCarthy (College of Nursing)
Chad Oldfather (Law School)
Joe Schimmels (College of Engineering: Mechanical Engineering)
Non-Voting Members:
Vice Provost for Research: Jeanne Hossenlopp
Director of ORSP: Kathy Durben
Guest Members:
Jeanne Hossenlopp (Vice Provost for Research & Dean of the Graduate School)
Kevin Gibson (Associate Dean of the Graduate School)
Kathy Durben (Director, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs)
Ben Kennedy (Research Compliance Officer – Human Subjects/Radiation Safety, ORC)
Austin Fritsch (Research Compliance Officer – Animal Subjects, ORC)
Tom Pionek (Marketing and Communication)

Summary:
During the 2014-2015 academic year, the COR reviewed:
- 65 SFF / RRG applications
- 5 Haggerty Award for Excellence in Research nominations
- 8 Way Klingler Young Scholar Award and 6 Way Klingler Fellowship nominations.
**Recurrent Tasks**
Review and Selection of Research Awardees:

1. **Summer Faculty Fellowship/Regular Research Grant (SFF/RRG) Awards.**
As reported last year, both mechanisms help faculty initiate or reprogram research. They are important also for sustainably growing Marquette University’s research enterprise as a requirement of accepting either award is that the recipient must apply for an external grant/fellowship related to the same project within two years in order to be eligible for future SFF/RRG consideration. Applications were reviewed by three panels with expertise in 1) natural, physical and applied sciences, 2) social sciences, and 3) humanities. Overall the COR received 65 applications for $574,754.00 for SFF/RRG funding, and we funded 33 grants totaling $293,106. Each of these totals represents substantial increases from 2013-14 when we received 45 applications for $379,100.00 for SFF/RRG funding, and we funded 37 grants totaling $253,147. We take this to be a sign of healthy interest in the program and would like to encourage all areas of the university to continue utilizing these programs.

**FUNDING:**

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Moreover, we note that the overall total of money awarded continues the generally upward trend made through the SFF/RRG program, such that the past four years represent the highest four award totals to date, and that the 2014-15 amount awarded ($293,106) is a record for the program.

2. **Lawrence G. Haggerty Award for Excellence in Research:**
   The Award recognizes scholarly distinction at Marquette University. Lifetime achievement along with quality and volume of publications were outcome measures used to select among nominees. A unanimous decision was made to recommend Nabeel Demerdash (Social and Cultural Sciences) as the award recipient in 2015.

3. **Way Klingler Faculty Development Awards:**
   These awards are made possible through the Faculty Development Fund established in 2004 with a gift by the late Helen Way Klingler. The purpose of the Fund is to help support faculty development at Marquette on an annual basis. The COR makes recommendations for the recipients of the Way Klingler Young Scholar Awards and the Way Klingler Faculty Fellowships.
a. Way Klingler Young Scholar Award:

In 2015, COR recognized 4 recipients of the Way Klingler Young Scholar Award. The COR members agreed that the top ranked candidates would be put forward to receive the award. They were Serdar Bozdag (MSCS), Jeremy Fyke (Communication), Melissa Ganz (English), and Lisa Petrella (Biological Sciences).

b. Way Klingler Faculty Fellowships:

For 2015, we again were able to give both awards. The COR members selected Ulrich Lehner (Theology) to receive the Fellowship in the Humanities and Social Sciences and Scott Reid (Chemistry) to receive the Fellowship in the Sciences.

Completed Business
The COR met as a body on eight occasions through academic 2014-2015, and in addition to reviewing the applications for the awards outlined above, our agendas have focused on developing specific recommendations for the Vice Provost/Vice President to advance the University’s strategic plan. To some extent this process underwent further definition during the year when President Lovell redefined the role of Dr. Hossenlopp to become the Vice President of Research and Innovation while creating the distinctive role of Dean of the Graduate School, at present held on an interim basis by Dr. Kevin Gibson. Whereas officers of the COR and the University Board of Graduate Studies met monthly with Dr. Hossenlopp and Dr. Gibson (then-associate dean of the Graduate School) to set agendas jointly for COR and UBGS through February, that practice changed after February to reflect more explicitly the role that UBGS has in advising on policy for the Graduate School and that COR has for advising on matters related to research and research-related policies. Given the specific aim expressed by Dr. Lovell to double R&E expenditures in the next five years, we believe that this division of labor is appropriate. Further, as the University focuses more fully on the use of its Strategic Innovation Fund to begin new research and to enhance existing research strengths on campus, we believe that COR will play an integral role advising the Vice President because our committee includes representation from across the colleges of the University.

Other Activities
• Monthly reports from the vice provost for research, Dr. Jeanne Hossenlopp.
• Monthly reports from Ms. Kathy Durben, executive director ORSP.
• Monthly reports from Mr. Benjamin Kennedy, research compliance officer – human subjects and radiation safety.
• Monthly reports from Mr. Austin Fritsch, research compliance officer – animal and biosafety / director animal facilities.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy G. McMahon, Ph.D
Chair, Committee on Research