Committee on Research Minutes  
of the 2/8/17 meeting

Present:  Sarah Feldner, Paul Gasser, Ryan Hanley, Jeanne Hossenlopp, Sarah Knox, Matthew Mitten, Phillip Naylor, Daniel Rowe

Also Present:  Melody Baker (note taker), Kathy Durben (ORSP), Ben Kennedy (ORC), Tom Pionek (OMC)

Excused:  Ron Coutu, Kristina Dreifuerst, Andrew Hanson, Chris Okunseri

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

Reports:

Report from the VP for Research and Innovation –
Dr. Hossenlopp discussed the potential impact of the government travel ban on researchers, as well as uncertainty regarding federal funding in the upcoming budget. Dr. Hossenlopp is working with Rana Altenburg, VP for Public Affairs, to figure out how MU can be more of a presence in Washington on research-related issues. Student financial aid is another area that may be impacted by changes in government.

Marquette has joined the Science Coalition, a nonpartisan organization with over 50 university members that seeks to sustain the federal government’s support of basic research. Marquette researchers are being included in the coalition’s publications and social media campaigns.

Report from the Vice Chair – no report

Report from the Director of ORSP –
Ms. Durben shared a report of grant applications and awards, and described the incentive provided by a donor for A&S faculty to apply for NIH R01’s. A printed report of other ORSP related activities was shared with members.

Report from ORC –
Mr. Kennedy reported that federal regulations under the Department of Health and Human Services have changed. He went on to describe some of the changes and stated that there is a one year grace period to comply with the regulations. Although there could be further changes with a new administration, Mr. Kennedy feels that is doubtful.

Business:

Select Way-Klingler Young Scholar awardees –
There were 17 applicants this year, the highest ever. Members discussed the difficulty of evaluating the applicants from different disciplines. The lack of a common denominator and clear evaluative criteria was noted as a difficulty in ranking by one member. Another member commented that they considered impact of the applicant’s research, while another reminded the committee that this award is meant to recognize accomplished young scholars. Differences between humanities and sciences, and differences in teaching loads were discussed.

It was also suggested that a letter from the chair be added to clarify the significance of the applicant’s accomplishments, to get a sense from experts within the field. Members also recommended thinking about how to streamline the applications.

The committee agreed that recognition of star faculty is important, and secondarily, retention should be considered. It was recommended to discuss changing the award to divided the four awards between the humanities/social sciences and applied/physical sciences, as is done with the Way-Klingler Fellowship.

A motion was made, and seconded to award the top four ranked applicants. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Select Way-Klingler Fellowship awardees –
A motion was made and seconded to accept the top ranked humanities applicant. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
A motion was made and seconded to accept the top ranked sciences applicant. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Next year the committee would like to have a detailed discussion before reading the applications, about the process and how to evaluate them (especially for the sake of new members). The committee would also like to discuss how the applicants could make the proposals easier to read across the disciplines.

Strategic Plan Update –
Dr. Hossenlopp and Ms. Durben were asked to present the strategic plan for research to the Board of Trustees Academic Excellence Committee this month. Dr. Hossenlopp shared a draft of the PowerPoint presentation and asked the COR for input. The presentation features 2020 targets for various areas including data used in the Carnegie classification (number of Ph.D.’s awarded, research staff, and research and development (R&D) expenditures) as well as targets for increasing innovation, tech transfer and commercialization. The COR bubble of cluster areas that was determined last year was shown and members were asked what research (of the cluster areas) should be presented to the BOT? Members suggested:

- Medical rhetoric (faculty cohort)
- EDUC – community engagement initiatives, grants
- Health Care disparities/community health
- Neuroscience
- Water research group
- Data statistics
- Stroke rehabilitation group
- Center for urban teaching, research, and outreach immigration issues

Members were also asked, if they had to tell the BOT one thing, what would it be? Members responded:
*Faculty are working hard, are engaged and enthusiastic, and there is a lot of potential.*

Another member asked if there a metric for faculty productivity? Dr. Hossenlopp responded that it is tailored to each college, and addressed during reviews, and in work load documents, etc.

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 am.