Committee on Research Minutes
of the 9/14/16 meeting

Present: Sarah Feldner, Paul Gasser, Ryan Hanley, Andrew Hanson, Jeanne Hossenlopp, Michael McChrystal, Phillip Naylor, Chris Okunseri, Daniel Rowe
Also Present: Melody Baker (note taker), Kathy Durben (ORSP), Austin Fritsch (ORC), Ben Kennedy (ORC)
Excused: Kristina Dreifuerst, Sarah Knox

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Naylor at 9:05 a.m. Introductions were made and the agenda was approved.

Reports:
Report from the Vice President for Research and Innovation –
Dr. Hossenlopp reported that since collectively setting the goal of doubling research a year ago there have been many conversations around that. Metrics considered include research and development (R&D) expenditures, and she went on to explain how that works. The next target has been set at $50 million. One of the things being looked at is faculty awards that cut across all of campus, and benchmarking that. MU can also improve celebrating and promoting faculty accomplishments.

The Athletic Performance Research Center (APRC) is still in the planning process; we are discussing what kind of research activities will take place, partnering with Aurora, actively soliciting donor support for some components. The range of research under discussion involves human performance in general: targeting a wide range of populations (and across the lifespan) including elite athletes, recreational athletes and others for whom exercise could be considered a form of medicine. Other potential research areas could include adaptive technologies for athletes with physical disabilities, development of sensor technology and analytics for performance, and nutrition.

Progress has been made with MU and MCW on the Stroke Rehabilitation research funded in part by our Strategic Innovation Fund as well as by MCW.

The Global Water Center (GWC) space is built out now and a broad range of water related research activities are going on at the facility.

Lastly, University Advancement (UA) has committed to having a full time person assigned for R & I. UA rep, Andrea Petrie, will be scheduled to visit at a future COR meeting to discuss research and scholarship as a key part of our identity.

Report from the Chair –
Dr. Naylor described the activities of the COR for the sake of the new members and commented on the benefits of being a part of this committee.
Report from the Director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) –
Ms. Durben provided two handouts reporting award and application data, along with announcements and upcoming activities sponsored by ORSP which she discussed. She also described the new grants management system which is expected to go live in July.

Report from the Office of Research Compliance (ORC) –
Mr. Kennedy, Research Compliance Officer for Humans Subjects and Radiation Safety, announced that his office has switched over to online training components, which were launched last month, for researchers, with over 100 users so far.
Mr. Fritsch, Research Compliance Officer for Animal Facility and Biosafety Director, described what his office is responsible for.

Business:
Affirmation of Officers -
Dr. Naylor announced that due to a large turnover in membership there were not many experienced members remaining to fill officer positions. Therefore the following members have volunteered to serve: Chris Okunseri, Chair, Phillip Naylor, Vice Chair, and Sarah Knox, Secretary. An offer was made to the members if anyone else was interested in an officer position, however the committee is satisfied and appreciative of the members who volunteered.

Benchmarking on the Strategic Plan –
While the committee will discuss this in more detail later, Dr. Hossenlopp described the expectations. She asked members to think about what in their department is an indicator of excelling in research and scholarship. What are the hallmarks of excellence? Members commented:
In Humanities, a book that receives awards, being publicized – public attention.
In Law, media attention, reporting of results.
In Business, media attention, being quoted, high level journal publications.
In Communication, counting publications, being named a “fellow” with national recognition, top article awards, need to look at both regional and national. Also, elections to national societies, PhD students in good positions post-graduation. It was also commented that we need to get faculty out to more conferences for additional exposure to more audiences, and for making connections.

Dr. Hossenlopp also discussed getting speakers to come to MU for the benefit of faculty and students – some departments do this better than others. Members were asked to look at who came for their department’s speaker series, how many, how long ago, how diverse and inclusive?
It was discussed how Harvard is different – quality of work and publishing in better outlets, serving on editorial boards.
It was commented that, in political science, visiting professorships, named electorships, editorial board, and edited volumes are becoming more important. In biomedical science, being an invited keynote speaker, and serving on grant review panels is important.

Lastly, Dr. Hossenlopp asked members to inquire within their areas to see if faculty are applying for fellowships, and whether faculty have time for research.

Priorities for the year –

Dr. Naylor shared that he would like the committee to consider how to evaluate the SFF/RRG applications, and work to establish a rubric. Dr. Feldner shared that her college will be hiring nontraditional scholars (who will be tenured on performance art), who will be applying for SFF/RRG’s and would like to discuss how to evaluate those. Members should discuss whether this program is doing what it is intended to do, and if the best use is being made of this money. Are some faculty being overly reliant on this fund? An assessment of the results and effectiveness of the COR award programs is needed.

Another discussion topic this year could be the connection between teaching loads and research, and whether good are strategies in place. How do these topics connect with UBGS and UPT?

Faculty who are not in STEM fields are wondering where they fit. Can COR make this a more productive conversation? Consider the unintended consequences – some people feel like they are being left behind. How can a conversation, or core theme, be inclusive of all disciplines? Members were asked to think about a core theme for each year that could be inclusive of the whole campus. Think of ideas on how to connect people for collaborative possibilities, such as lunch mate sessions. Continue to educate the Board of Trustees on research. It was also pointed out that there is an advantage that it doesn’t take much funding to get scholarship out of humanities – they can accomplish a lot with a little.

Dr. Hossenlopp encouraged members to start to identify some actions the committee can take, things to try out that will send a signal to the campus.

Coordinating with Associate Deans for Research –

The Associate Deans for Research will be invited to join the COR at the October meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20am