

**Committee on Research (COR)**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**October 1, 2014**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 3:00 pm on October 1, 2014 in Room 324 of the Kolligian Library, Chair David C. Noelle presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Noelle updated COR members on the Provost/EVC's all-faculty forum on September 24 where he made the following announcements on the strategic academic focusing process:

--the Provost/EVC and the strategic academic focusing committee members have formulated five areas under which the submitted proposals will fall: Chemistry/Biology/Materials, Computation/Analysis/Big Data, Sustainability, Entrepreneurship and Management, and Research for Community and Social Benefits. The Provost/EVC indicated that FTE allocations would be given to these areas as well as the traditional research areas. While the titles of these five broad research areas will not be substantially changed, the Provost/EVC still welcomes input from faculty to refine these general areas and the process.

--the Provost/EVC stated that he would like the faculty to assist him in reexamining these five broad areas every few years and re-valuate the strengths of the campus. The allocating of FTE lines would still occur on a yearly basis. Some faculty in attendance at the forum feared that there is no institutional support for prioritizing FTE lines within the broad areas or across bylaw 55 units.

II. Consent Calendar

The September 17 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

III. Campus Review Items

--Economics PhD proposal. COR members continued their discussion from the last meeting and re-examined a committee member's revised review of the proposal. COR members were in favor of the proposal but added the following comments to the review: 1) potential collaborations with the Health Psychology program on campus should be highlighted since the

proposed program includes a Health Economics emphasis and 2) the feasibility of the proposed extensive coursework and substantial research expectations.

**ACTION:** These comments will be included in a memo that COR will transmit to the Senate chair by the deadline of Friday, October 3.

--Senate-IT Advisory Council draft charge. COR approved the draft charge with the comments that the faculty membership be changed to explicitly state representation from UGC, GC, COR, and CAPRA.

**ACTION:** COR will transmit its memo to the Senate chair by the deadline of Friday, October 3.

--Proposed split of the committee on Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom. COR members approved the proposed split, stating that this division will increase efficiency.

**ACTION:** COR will transmit its memo to the Senate chair by the deadline of Friday, October 3.

--Compensation for General Education Subcommittee Chair. COR members agreed that this item was not relevant to the committee's function.

**ACTION:** The Senate chair will be informed that COR has no comments.

#### IV. Senate Faculty Grants

Chair Noelle briefly summarized previous COR discussions and previous criteria that were used to evaluate proposals. These discussions included the amount of funds allocated to each faculty member and the criteria used on other campuses (juniority, evidence of need, new research initiatives, travel for dissemination of research, etc.).

Chair Noelle reiterated the need to decide the future of the UCM faculty grants program which will drive the future criteria and evaluation of grant proposals. COR members held a lengthy discussion on the program's objectives, how to rank them, and how to appropriately assess quality. A COR member suggested that the committee require a letter of intent from faculty, after which the PI will be invited to submit a formal proposal for COR to review. In all cases, COR must be clear and transparent about how the elements of the proposal will be assessed.

COR members discussed the possibility of dividing the pots of money by School and the merits of holding a large competition with different categories versus a competition with one category, i.e. bridge funding.

Moving forward, COR members agreed that goals of the faculty grants program should include the following: supporting junior faculty, assisting research areas that rarely receive external funding, providing bridge funding for faculty, supporting projects that contain new directions of research, and supporting high-risk projects. Other considerations are supporting interdisciplinary projects and encouraging junior and senior faculty grant collaborations.

After a brief discussion on the need for emergency and bridge funding for faculty, COR members requested a follow up meeting with VCs Feitelberg and Reese, AVC Jones, Controller Riley, and VCR Traina to receive updates on the new indirect cost return rate model.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Attest: David C. Noelle, COR Chair

Minutes prepared by: Simrin Takhar, Senate Analyst