Committee on Research (COR)
Minutes of Meeting
Friday, November 20, 2015
KL 232

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 9:30 am on November 20, 2015 in Room 232 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Ajay Gopinathan presiding.

I.   Chair's Report
       Chair Gopinathan updated COR members on the following:

       Division Council meeting November 9

       - Provost/EVC Peterson attended the first 30 minutes of the Division Council meeting to discuss the campus incidents of November 4. He sought Council members' input on the most effective method of communicating the final results of the investigation (when completed). He encouraged all faculty members to contact him with any concerns or suggestions.

       - Another topic of discussion at Division Council included the memo on endowed chairs as submitted by the Committee for Diversity and Equity to the Provost/EVC and Vice Provost for the Faculty. The main concern is the lack of diversity of current endowed chairs, and, the large number of unfilled chairs. The other significant discussion item was the proposed revisions to the L(P)SOE chapter of the MAPP.

       COR Updates

       - Chair Gopinathan announced that VCORED Traina has submitted his revised policy on the review of ORUs in response to comments received by Senate committees last academic year. COR is still waiting to receive the Provost/EVC's revised document on the establishment of centers.
       - The Provost/EVC has agreed to increase the amount of funding for the Senate faculty grants program to $175,000 for the next two fiscal years.

       - Committee member Scheibner is serving as the COR representative to the Library and Scholarly Communications committee.

II.   UCORP updates

Committee member Wiebe, who represents COR at UCORP, provided the following updates from the October 12 and November 9 UCORP meetings:

- UCORP is developing policies for the review of Multi-campus Research Units.
- President Napolitano is establishing a new position to report directly to her: Senior Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship. This position is intended to be "outward facing" to donors, legislators and other stakeholders as well as serve as a liaison between the campuses and UCOP.   Many UCORP members are concerned by the position's emphasis on entrepreneurship and innovation and far less on research.
- UCORP held discussions on the openness of research issue specifically, the extent to which national security interests affect research policy. Prior to this meeting, member Wiebe distributed UCORP's power point slides to COR members for informational purposes. Two questions arose at UCORP: 1) should there be restrictions on the content of faculty members' publications and 2) should non-US citizens continue to be banned from conducting certain research projects? UCOP is developing a coherent policy to guide these issues. Faculty members who receive funding from the Department of Defense are particularly affected.   UCORP members were instructed to report back with their campuses' opinion on the openness of research. After a brief discussion among COR members, member Wiebe stated that she will inform UCORP that UCM's COR advocates for a thoughtful analysis that takes into account the research enterprise on all campuses.
- Multi-campus research programs and initiatives (MRPI). MRPI had been previously defunded, however, UCORP announced that funding will double.
- Common Rule for the Protection of Human Subjects. This policy will be revised.

III.   Consent Calendar

ACTION: Today's agenda and the October 9 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

IV.   Establishment of Core Facilities

ACTION: Tabled until the December meeting. VCORED Traina will draft a proposal and distribute to COR members prior to the meeting.

V.   Senate Faculty Research Grants.

Prior to this meeting, Chair Gopinathan circulated a draft proposal for the revision of last year's review criteria. COR members held a lengthy discussion on what these awards are intended to be. There was general consensus that the awards should be used for 1) Seed funding (to gather preliminary data and ultimately pursue extramural funding) and 2) research sustenance (equipment repair, conference travel for dissemination of research, bridge funding, access to collections for humanities faculty members, etc.). COR members also agreed that these two types of categories should be equally capped at $5,000 per PI.

COR members agreed that the proposal modifications should be revised further to change the title of the second category (research sustenance) and that the review criteria should not "punish" faculty members who have existing grants.

ACTION: COR members will continue to revise the award criteria via email and at the December meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.
Attest:

Ajay Gopinathan, COR Chair