

Committee on Research (COR)
Minutes of Meeting
September 3, 2014

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 3:00 pm on September 3, 2014 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair David Noelle presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Noelle welcomed new and continuing members to COR.

Chair Noelle directed the committee members' attention to the AY 13-14 COR annual report, specifically, the section on planning for AY 14-15. Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR) Traina pointed out that the office of Research Compliance is scheduled to undergo periodic review in AY 15-16 and suggested that COR participate in the review. COR members briefly discussed the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and whether faculty are experiencing any issues.

ACTION: Research and Development Services (RDS) staff will be asked to conduct a faculty survey on satisfaction with the IRB.

II. COR Goals for AY 14-15

Committee members agreed to focus on the following goals this academic year and assigned committee members to take the lead:

--Review of research units. Since the Senate has approved the policies drafted by last year's COR on the establishment and review of research units, COR will implement those policies this year. SNRI is scheduled for a five-year review and COR will work with the VCR to launch this endeavor and evaluate SNRI's research contribution to the campus. SNRI would need to be notified at least one year in advance so it can gather the necessary data.

ACTION: COR will identify the timeline, metrics, and necessary documentation needed to begin the five-year review.

--Faculty research grants. Last year's COR submitted two memos to Division Council stating the need for increased funding of the faculty grants program

as funding as not increased commensurate with the growth in faculty numbers. Many meritorious proposals could not be funded due to low levels of funding. In the absence of further funding, COR will re-evaluate the criteria used for the grant proposals. COR may involve Schools in the initial review of the proposals.

--Indirect cost return. COR members met with VP Feitelberg, AVC Jones, and Controller Riley in August to continue the AY 13-14 conversation about faculty funding. COR will continue to impart to the administration the importance of faculty bridge funding as well as consistency and transparency in an indirect cost return policy. COR will also work with the administration on communicating to faculty all updates concerning indirect cost return.

--Lab safety. In light of many faculty members moving from SEI to SEII, more issues surrounding labs have arisen and will persist for the next few years. VCR Traina co-chairs a campus research safety committee with faculty representation, and COR will continue to monitor and advise on lab safety issues.

--Grants management system and federal research guidelines. COR will assist the VCR, RDS, and the Sponsored Projects Office (SPO) by providing input on the new system before it is implemented in 2015. VCR Traina has already identified beta testers but COR will be asked to provide guidance on the training materials and other components of the new system. COR will also work with the VCR on reviewing the new federal research guidelines that are scheduled to become effective December 2014.

--Space. COR will work with other Senate committees, mainly CAPRA, on advising about space issues as they affect the campus research mission. Various space committees have been convened on campus over time, but there is a pressing need for more faculty representation.

--Limited submission grant proposals. These are currently handled at the School-level and COR will make recommendations on the review process and the need for transparency.

ACTION: At the next COR meeting, timelines will be assigned to each goal.

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

Attest: David Noelle, COR Chair

Minutes prepared by: Simrin Takhar, Senate Analyst