Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
December 3, 2019

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 1:30 pm on December 3, 2019 in Room 397 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Michael Scheibner presiding.

I.   Chair's Report

Chair Scheibner reported on his standing meeting with VCORED Sam Traina:

- VCORED Traina discussed with the CoR chair updates from the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Investigations regarding fundamental research, specifically, the challenges and pitfalls of sharing fundamental knowledge across borders in the context of national security interests. The U.S. Government Accountability office takes the opposite view, and states that research funded by taxpayers should be accessible to taxpayers. It is unclear which side U.S. lawmakers will follow. The UC system is expected to join the debate.

- The CoR chair discussed with VCORED Traina the inquiries the CoR chair has received from faculty groups on campus who are interested in forming ORUs. The CoR chair also discussed with VCORED Traina the revisions that CoR is making to the ORU policy in response to comments received last year from Senate committees, ORU directors, and School Executive Committees. The VCORED suggested that CoR consider the role of ORUs versus the roles of Schools especially with regard to staffing. Specifically, should ORUs replicate the service model that exists in the Schools or should there be a centralized service model similar to that of ACT? VCORED Traina will be kept informed of CoR's additional revisions to the ORU policy.

II.   Consent Calendar
- Today's agenda
- November 19 draft meeting minutes

Action: Consent Calendar was approved as presented with the following changes to today's agenda: remove Division Council debrief and add CoR chair's draft proposal for research enhancement.

III.   Sponsored Projects Office Review of Proposals

CoR members discussed an issue with the submission of proposals. Faculty request clarity on which revisions are only suggestions from sponsored projects staff and which revisions are required to be made in order for proposals to be submitted to funding agencies. CoR members suggested that sponsored projects staff should make the distinction clear and acknowledge that recommended revisions are solely at the discretion of the faculty PIs.

Action: CoR Chair Scheibner will raise this issue with VCORED Traina and will later consult with CoR on whether the committee should send a memo to the sponsored projects office director.

IV.   ORU Policy Revisions

Prior to this meeting, CoR Chair Scheibner distributed a revised ORU policy. CoR members discussed the chair's list of outstanding questions to address in the policy, including requiring both an executive committee and an advisory board, the faculty rank of an ORU Associate Director, and rephrasing the section on how efforts by an ORU to meet campus diversity goals contribute to the ORU's research and research training. Members also suggested that the policy should include a list of ORU director duties.

Action: Committee analyst will research other UC campus ORU policies regarding ORU director duties. The CoR chair will incorporate all suggested revisions and present an updated ORU policy for CoR members' review at the December 17 meeting.

V.   Other Business

Prior to this meeting, CoR Chair Scheibner distributed a draft Research Enhancement proposal. The proposal calls for a restructuring of campus research support in order to align such support with the new academic planning process, support the campus in its goal to reach R1 status, and enhance research experience, productivity and output. The restructuring would involve two categories: faculty grants program and research workforce development.

Action: The research enhancement proposal will be placed on the December 17 meeting agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Attest: Michael Scheibner, CoR chair