

**Committee on Research
Minutes
October 27, 2015**

Present: Steve Whittaker (chair), John Musacchio, Matthew Clapham, Sharon Daniel, John Bowin, Jarmilia Pittermann, Dan Oliver, GSA

Absent with Notice: Brandin Baron-Nusbaum, Fernando Leiva

Announcements/Members Items

With minor edits from the Chair the COR Minutes of October 13, 2015 were approved.

FRG/SRG Proposal Criteria

The committee reviewed the criteria for this FRG/SRG grant cycle. The biggest change is that this year there is a possibility of getting matching funds for those applications that are related to the research themes. COR agreed to adopt the research themes developed after the FIGH (Faculty Initiated Group Hire) process. Also identified were changes that would allow an additional field for applicants to provide a justification for consideration of the matching funds (how the research is related to the themes).

The committee also reviewed changes to the criteria that were suggested at the end of last year, specifically allowable expenses.

Library Funding Proposal

The EVC has requested the Senate review a revised proposal to alter the methodology for allocating library startup funds for new faculty. The Senate provided feedback on the proposal during spring 2014 and the administration subsequently revised the proposal in part on the Senate's comments. COR agreed that in general increases to the library budget is good, but faculty control over collections has been greatly reduced. Further, with the elimination of the subject expert librarians, there are not librarians responsible for reaching out to faculty about their library needs. If the funds are now to go directly to the library with no obligation for faculty input, COR would prefer to see the proposal include an outreach plan. Outreach to faculty, absent the previous model of subject area librarians, could include going to department meetings, or other faculty events to raise awareness of how to work with the library on faculty needs. In reviewing the proposal, the allocation amounts did not seem to make sense so the committee agreed to wait for the response from the Committee on Planning and Budget and then look at again at the next COR meeting.

Faculty Computing Support

As part of its pro-active agenda for the year, COR agreed to work on the issue of faculty computer resources. COR has seen an increase in grant requests for basic computing equipment. After reviewing the varied computer purchase/replacement policies for the different academic divisions, In some divisions an entrepreneurial model applies, that faculty grants cover basic computing costs, so that the divisions are not obliged. In this way, the research mission generates resources to subsidize teaching. For less grant rich fields, this entrepreneurial model should not apply. One remedy is to give all faculty a set amount, that can be used at their discretion. COR's discussion was inconclusive about taking any action. But they did agree to keep the same allowable expenses for the grant applications.