

**COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH
MINUTES
April 25, 2017**

Present: Steve Whittaker (*chair*), Grace Peña Delgado, Longzhi Lin, Dejan Miltinovic, Daniel Oliver (GSR), OSP Director Kata Aja, OSP Assistant Director Deirdre Beach

Absent: Fernando Leiva, Todd Lowe, Ahmet Ali Yanik

Consultation with Vice Chancellor for Research Scott Brandt

The Office for Research and Division of Graduate Studies has revised the Centers of Excellence proposal based on feedback from the Senate and campus administration and consulted with the committee for an informal review. Members noted that proposal seems simpler but the process and criteria for the two offices to award and fund remains unclear. Member noted the lack of discussion relating to graduate students and shared their concern that extramural funding may not necessarily correlate with growing the graduate student population. VCR Brandt clarified that the overall goal of the Center is to foster research that will increase monies, collaboration among faculty, and visibility for the campus. The campus should not continue to divide funds evenly across the disciplines, it is challenging to prioritize initiatives. Federal funding will be dismal in the future.

Office for Research and Graduate Division will review and ultimately make the decision to seed fund based on the satisfaction of the criteria. It's anticipated that the incoming CP/EVC will be more strategic in allocating funds with an increased focus on accountability. One doctoral student is funded at the rate of five times the undergraduate student but the campus has not been able to increase graduate growth.

Members suggested articulating in the proposal their funding strategies and decisions to ensure visibility and transparency. In the future, it would be helpful to have more faculty involvement, one expert within each discipline to serve on a panel to provide diverse views. Members believe it will be difficult to determine relative merits.

Consult on COR's Faculty Research Support Survey with IRAPS Assistant Director Anna Sher

The committee continued discussing the questions to pose that would inform the committee on ways to improve the research grant program, suggestions to change campus culture surrounding research, and possible new ways to expand the collaborative theme. Some of the questions relating to the grant program included:

- Are the grant sufficient, compared to research funds, other funding sources?
- How many times have individual faculty applied and/or received grant? If not, why not?
- How critical is the committee's grant to their research such as impact, facilitative or transformative (article, book, proof of concept, tenure, etc.)?

The committee reviewed the list of the questions and inquired with Assistant Director Sher on the recommended length of the survey to achieve the highest response rate. Assistant Director Sher suggested asking more than the current five questions, at least ten questions that are relevant to faculty. The response will be set up so that it can be qualitative or a combination. The committee will decide on their top questions they would like to pose and will draft an introduction to the survey.