

**COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH
MINUTES
October 4, 2016**

Present: Steve Whittaker (*chair*), Karen Bassi, Daniel Costa, Grace Pena Delgado, Longzhi Lin, Todd Lowe, Gustavo Vasquez, Ahmet Ali Yanik, Daniel Oliver (GSR), Scott Brandt (Vice Chancellor for Research)

Absent: Fernando Leiva

Conducting Committee Business

Chair Whittaker reviewed the committee's purview and the member's guideline. The committee reviewed and agreed to the Consultation Procedures and Confidentiality Statement, which included the conflict of interest recusal and the eligibility exemption from applying to the Special Research Grant as current committee members. The committee members discussed and agreed to extend a standing invitation to the Vice Chancellor for Research Scott Brandt to attend the meeting to facilitate collaboration, consultation and provide the committee related updates.

COR Proactive Agenda for 2016-17

The committee discussed various issues throughout the meeting they would like to address this year. The identified issues of interest to the committee members are below.

Office of Research

The Vice Chancellor for Research Brandt attended the first half hour of the meeting to introduce himself and shared there are new hires within his office, whose roles are intended to promote and provide central support for faculty research, specifically in industry engagement and research development. VCR Brandt is working with the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies Tyrus Miller to create a Center of Excellence to promote graduate growth. He concluded his visit iterating that he would be happy to discuss any issues with the committee. The committee would like to continue discussing graduate growth in future meetings.

Several members noted that the Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP) proposal reviews seems to take longer and it is much more difficult to have grant proposals submitted, perhaps this is due to the recent turnover and inexperience with the office. The committee is interested in conducting a faculty survey to gain a better understanding of the issues faculty are facing and to partner with OSP to find ways to improve the process. A member proposed the idea of getting more support for grant writing by applying for the grant writer's time, especially with pre-proposals.

COR Grant Programs & Budget

Chair Whittaker noted the three type of research grants the committee awards: new faculty research grants (max \$2,000), faculty research grants (\$1,500 - \$2,000), and special research grants (max \$8,000). The staff analyst provided an overview of the committee's grant program budget for this upcoming year and the previous two years (2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17). The allocation for the committee has been relatively flat at approximately \$415k the past couple of years with carry forward monies.

A member brought up her colleagues negative perception attributed to faculty who applies for COR grants. Members noted this may stem from the availability of grant to different divisions; for example, the Sciences and Engineering divisions are able to access large grants that are routinely available, while this is not the case in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts divisions. Similarly, faculty start-up packages also vary divisions, therefore COR grants are useful to faculty where resources are minimally available.

Chair Whittaker noted that COR grants are useful to faculty and furthering their research; it provides junior faculty the experience of crafting and writing a proposal that can provide technical context which is valuable in itself. Another member noted it has allowed faculty to receive funding to conduct research that would not have otherwise been funded through other mechanism. The committee discussed ways to publicize that COR grant proposal are reviewed carefully and recipient have a history of showing results from their research and as a productive use of campus funds. Other ideas to improve the reputation of grant recipients include the recipients presenting their research or changing the title of the award so it can be reflected notably on faculty's CV.

Research Collaboration on Campus: Members are interested in creating a mechanism for faculty and researchers across the divisions to work together, this could consist of COR grant awardees presenting to their colleagues.