The Advisory Committee to the Vice President for Research (AC/VPR)

Summary of the
General AC/VPR
Meeting
May 22, 2012 from 3-5 pm
University of Oklahoma, Norman Campus

Members Present: Michael Ashby, Eve Bannet, Fred Carr, David Craig, James Patterson, Hazem Refai, Ed Sankowski, Musharraf Zaman
VPR Office Staff Present: Kelvin Droegemeier, Andrea Deaton, Morris Foster, Todd Fuller, James Grimsley, Cathi Parker

Distributed Documents:
1. National Research Council Categorization of Major Awards (hardcopy)
2. Recognition Program for Exceptional Achievements in Research and Creative Activity (hardcopy)
3. Overview of Policy Regarding Conflicts of Interest (hardcopy)
4. Thematic Mapping Document (hardcopy)

VPR Update: Dr. Droegemeier welcomed everyone to the meeting and began with an overview of topics impacting the VPR Office.

- Effective May 16, Bob Palmer has been named Associate Vice President for Research. He will work primarily with the Engineering and Physical Sciences areas.
- The state passed a 3.1% increase to the budget with a 3% cut to universities. Tuition increases of 3-5% are possible. No salary program is expected this year.
- A Thematic Mapping handout was distributed. CRPDE is now working with OU faculty member, Chris Weaver, on this process and are close to having a finished product. Todd Fuller commented that it is impressive that we are able to now visualize our verbalizations and Dr. Droegemeier gave a summary of how the format will work.
- Four Partners Place is on track to open October 2012 which is ahead of schedule. Five Partners Place has been approved and will be located due east of SLSRC. The building will be four stories and 100,000 square feet. They are expected to break ground late in this calendar year.
- A Radar Retreat is planned for the Fall semester.
- Dr. Droegemeier discussed the Red Book project. The VPR Office used this concept to come up with 12 priority areas including water, weather, natural products, etc. It will contain priority projects, analysis of potential collaborators, and will be kept updated. We’ll be able to extract pieces based on who we’re meeting with and we will be creating a “virtual” Red Book which will be available on our website. From this process, we’ll be able to provide custom briefing materials to be used by our Congressional liaisons/delegations. Discussion: we need to ask hard questions i.e. how good are we? Earmarks are done in different ways now, back door approaches.

University-wide program on nominating faculty for prestigious national awards: Dr. Droegemeier distributed a handout and explained that there are three tiers to the program: Career Tier, Highly Prestigious Tier, and Prestigious Tier. The idea is to have the VPR office work with colleges and designate a few awards each year to go after. Some awards are nominations and
some are not. OU needs more of a presence in this process and Deans are supportive of the plan. Discussion: we need to identify 2-3 potential candidates a year and do them well. We don’t have a good tracking system at OU for award winners. Should we list “Fellows of Professional Societies”? Departments/colleges should look for faculty to nominate and Research Liaisons should be involved. The College of Engineering is working on a prototype of the mini-vitae and it has gone through Beta testing. Work-study students are inputting 2012 data and the prototype will “talk” to PeopleSoft. Rick Luce will be a wonderful person to have in the conversation due to his digital background.

Recognition Program for Exceptional Achievements: Effective July 1, 2012 and continuing through June 30, 2015, subject to availability of funds. The purpose of the program is to celebrate achievements in research and creative activity on the Norman Campus (including Norman Campus programs at OU-Tulsa) via the provision of monetary awards to those leading the associated activities. A handout was provided with the monetary awards/eligible programs. We need to reward faculty for thinking bigger. CRPDE is putting together a comprehensive database. If any awards were left off spreadsheet, contact Todd Fuller and he’ll update the matrix. Discussion: Are the award amounts enough? $100,000 has been budgeted by the VPR office. In regards to awards/prizes, forms of recognition gets complicated, some units don’t have it on their radar screen. It’s a matter of priorities. $2,500 is a “big deal” for Humanities. Book prizes would be a nice addition. Put together a committee to adjudicate. Are patents going to be on the list? Should awards already in progress be grandfathered in?

Draft Non-Financial Conflict of Interest Policy:
Dr. Morris Foster distributed a handout of a summary of the latest draft of the Norman Campus COI policy. The primary differences with current policy are the NIH-mandated $5000 threshold triggering a conflict and more explicit coverage of conflicts of effort and commitment as well as conflicts arising from relationships with companies and non-profit organizations. The draft policy currently is undergoing final revisions based on comments from university stakeholders (faculty senate, staff senate, and individual faculty and staff members) before going to the university regents for approval.

CRPDE Update: An overview was given by Todd Fuller.
- New Center Administrator: Susan Dubbs has been hired as the new center administrator.
- Research Council and Internal Funding Update: CRPDE will focus this summer on clarifying issues that have been raised regarding the internal funding programs.
- EPSCoR Update: The OU team was tasked to go forward and the request for proposals comes out in October.
- CRPDE plans to develop a workshop schedule and they asked that you contact Alicia Knoedler or Todd Fuller for specific agency workshops.
- Discussion: How many applications does CRPDE receive? The level of Grantsmanship has increased. What is success rate? Success rates don’t factor in resubmissions versus first submissions. The Research Council budgeted $180,000 this year and will increase to $230,000.

Roundtable Discussion: Discussion ensued regarding the Recognition Program for Exceptional Achievements. What are the eligibility patterns? Should renewable term faculty be on there? We would like to create more success with first submissions. CARD plans to hold seminars this summer. Dr. Droegemeier recognized outgoing members Heather Basara and David Stensrud. A memo will be sent to committee members’ chairs to recognize their service beginning this Spring.
Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Fall 2012 and will be held at 3-5 p.m. in the Charlie Conference Room. The website will be updated once final dates are selected.