The Advisory Committee to the Vice President for Research (AC/VPR)
Summary of the
General AC/VPR
Meeting
December 14, 2010 from 3-5 pm
University of Oklahoma, Norman Campus

Members Present: Musharraf Zaman, David Craig, Heather Basara, Noel Brady, Emily Meazell, Fred Carr, Michael Ashby, Eve Bannet, Ed Sankowski, Marlys Lipe, Mary Margaret Holt, Pat Hardre, Hazem Refai, James Grimsley, Joe Rodgers

VPR Office Present: Kelvin Droegemeier, Morris Foster, Andrea Deaton, Alicia Knoedler, Deborah Marsh, Shawn Snidow

Distributed Documents:
1. VPR Overview (hardcopy)
2. DSI director position announcement
3. VPR 2010 Accomplishments and 2011 Goals
4. Research Council prioritized task list

VPR Updates & Overview: Dr. Droegemeier welcomed the members of the VPR Advisory Committee, provided a general overview of the current state of the VPR Office as it relates to the University, and reviewed current and upcoming activities.

- Faculty should have received a memo from President Boren addressing adjustments in the University budget. Dr. Droegemeier also noted that he does not expect federal agencies’ research budgets to improve in FY12 over the budgets of FY11. Recent activities to broaden the Research portfolio of OU will help the University continue to take advantage of the opportunities available.

- Regarding the Defense, Security and Intelligence (DSI) strategic initiative, a position search for a program director is underway. The director will help facilitate OU research and engagement with DSI agencies, particularly the Department of Defense (DOD).
  - The DSI director position announcement was distributed before the meeting.
  - The position will be very much like Dr. Knoedler’s in the CRPDE, but will focus on proposals for Defense, Security and Intelligence agencies and their needs.
  - Dr. Knoedler noted that currently no position like this exists at any university.

- Patton Boggs has employed the firm of Hyjek & Fix to help facilitate research engagement with DOD and the DSI director will hopefully work with them to improve the university’s relationship with the DOD.
  - When asked about the success of the Patton Boggs engagement, Dr. Droegemeier acknowledged that the first year of activities (related to stimulus funding) did not lead to specific awards, but that they did allow the University to reevaluate the process by which OU will take advantage of the Patton Boggs relationship in the future.
  - The process is now more streamlined and focused toward particular opportunities in DSI. Dr. Droegemeier has higher expectations for the new year-long engagement.
• Dr. Droegemeier announced that he would soon be issuing notification of the USO re-competition. The re-competition will lead to fewer USO awards, but they will be funded at $150-200K instead of the current level of $75K. The deadline for the competition will be mid-spring. Please see the email announcement for more details.

• Major national level activities are occurring among federal agencies, and Dr. Droegemeier mentioned that he is working to make sure that OU has a presence in those conversations, including those regarding required F&A, compliance, and public access to research.

• Dr. Knoedler updated the AC on CRPDE, saying that she has spent a good portion of her time reading proposals, meeting with faculty, working on a number of initiatives, and that a few new policies and processes have been implemented.
  o All new limited submission RFPs will be handled by CRPDE. CRPDE will issue a call requesting that interested persons send CRPDE a notice of intent. All interested persons will be required to attend an informative “reality check” meeting prior to the internal submission deadline and competition.
  o A list of limited submission programs is provided on the CRPDE website. Any others may be brought to Dr. Knoedler’s or Ms. Deaton’s attention. Please check the website regularly for updated information.
  o Anyone interested in pursuing center-level proposals needs to contact Dr. Knoedler soon to begin that process.
  o A position similar to Dr. Knoedler’s is in the process of being developed for OU-Norman programs at Tulsa and will be announced in January, 2011.

• Ms. Deaton explained that ORS is working well in conjunction with CRPDE and that faculty should be careful not to confuse the function and purpose of the two offices. An ORS representative will be present at the major proposal meetings conducted by CRPDE.

• Dr. Droegemeier mentioned that the new Carnegie rankings should be out soon. Though it is difficult to know in advance, Dr. Droegemeier is hopeful that OU will be classified as a Very High Research institution.

Aspire 2020: Dr. Droegemeier is pleased with the results of the Aspire 2020 action teams from last year and looks forward to three new action teams beginning in the spring.

• A number of accomplishments and new programs have resulted from the initial Aspire 2020 action teams.
  o The DSI strategic initiative he mentioned earlier is a direct result of reviewing the OU research portfolio.
  o Dr. Droegemeier and the VPR office have begun working to begin a faculty incentive program, beginning with the first successful IGERT award.
  o The Challenge Grant discussed during the last AC/VPR meeting is the result of important conversations with faculty about funding needs. Meant to provide greater funding than the Research Council awards, the Challenge Grant will issue up to 10 awards at $10K, 6 awards at $25K, 4 awards at $50K, and 2 awards at $100K, depending upon the merit of the proposals and the availability of funds. These awards will be funded for one year. All participants will be required to work with Dr. Knoedler and CRPDE during the process.
The Potentially Transformative Research (PTR) award is an expansion of the Research Council portfolio, as a result of the Aspire 2020 work. Oral defense of PTR proposals occurred on December 15.

The VPR Research Awards are a product of the goals of Aspire 2020 and were developed in conjunction with an ad hoc task force made up of AC and Research Council members.

The Research Liaison (RL) program is also scheduled to begin in the spring. Department suggestions for faculty to serve as RLs are due soon.

- Three new Aspire 2020 action teams are scheduled for the spring semester to evaluate and discuss the following topics:
  - Graduate Research
  - Undergraduate Research
  - Education Research

Dr. Droegemeier asked that AC members consider volunteering to lead one of these action teams. He thanked Dr. Hardre for agreeing to co-lead the Education Research action team. Please let Dr. Droegemeier know if you are interested in co-leading one of these teams.

Year-2 VPR Goals: Dr. Droegemeier’s major goals for the coming year are listed on the supplemental document. These include:

- Continuing to develop the faculty incentive program, with approval and guidance from legal counsel.
- Working to establish another Federal Research entity on campus.
- Beginning a faculty leadership program to support the aspirations of faculty.
- Launching the new VPR website.
- Working to establish the Center for Applied Research and Development (CARD) discussed later (below).

Research Council Task Forces: Dr. Brady, the current Research Council chair, discussed the four high priority task items for the Research Council as provided in the supplemental document. He explained that items 2 and 3 will likely require a task force of current and past Research Council members. Please contact Dr. Droegemeier, Dr. Brady, or Ms. Snidow if you are interested in serving on these task forces.

1. Implementation of a new web page is underway and requires little deliberation.
2. Revision of the Research Council portfolio will be an important undertaking and will require an ad hoc task force to accomplish. Generally, the goal will be to develop fewer RC programs to serve faculty at all levels, with less prescription and greater accountability. Other considerations should account for the logistics and implementation of the programs, timelines, and the administrative requirements of awards and deadlines.
3. The development of a comprehensive conflict of interest policy is another project that will require and ad hoc task force. Currently, no conflict of interest policy exists.
4. Possible Junior Faculty Funding program changes will be discussed during the spring review of those proposals and does not require a task force.

Task Force for Creating the Center for Applied R&D (CARD): The creation of a Center for Applied Research and Development is an idea that arose from the Aspire 2020 discussions which
would help facilitate applied research and development to complement existing faculty activities and open new avenues for funding. *Dr. Droegemeier asked that AC members consider volunteering to serve on a task force to develop the scope and operating structure for this new center.*

**New VPR Website:** Dr. Droegemeier previewed the new VPR website during the meeting. The website will go live toward the end of January. He will alert AC members when the site is ready to test and asks that members provide feedback about the functionality and usefulness of the new layout. Please note that the ORS website will remain the same for the time being, though some items it currently houses are being moved to the new VPR site and thus will be deleted from the ORS site. Dr. Droegemeier thanked Ms. Marsh and acknowledged Gabe Wingfield of the VPR Office for their work on setting up the new website.

**Open Discussion:**
- Dr. Carr asked Dr. Droegemeier about the extent to which he and the VPR Office are working with the Office of Development to raise philanthropic funds for research endowments and prizes. Dr. Droegemeier noted that while his early idea to develop a sizeable endowment for research will not likely occur, his conversations with Tripp Hall in the development office have led to increased awareness of research funding needs. As one case in point, a donation is now being sought for a major piece of research equipment.
- Further discussion noted that corporations are often interested in working with researchers before they make donations. The development of such relationships will be an important role fulfilled by the development of CARD.
- Mr. Grimsley suggested that a multi-purpose symposium dedicated to presentations by corporations and faculty and non-faculty researchers may help facilitate relationships between the University and corporations. The College of Engineering currently has an event like this.
- Dr. Zaman reiterated that he hopes more attention will be given to Graduate Research because of the instrumental role graduate student research plays in the research enterprise.

**Action Items:** Please respond to Dr. Droegemeier or Ms. Snidow if you are interested in serving on the following *ad hoc* task forces or co-leading an Aspire 2020 action team.

**Aspire 2020 Action Team co-leaders:**
- Graduate Research
- Undergraduate Research
- Education Research (Dr. Hardre)

**Research Council/Advisory Committee Ad hoc Task Forces**
- RC Portfolio Revision
- RC Conflict of Interest Policy

**New Center Task Force**
- Center for Applied Research and Development (CARD)
Next Meeting: The next General AC/VPR Meeting will take place Wednesday, February 23, 2011 from 3-5pm in the Charlie conference room of 3PP.