The Advisory Committee to the Vice President for Research
Summary of the
General AC/VPR Meeting
Monday, November 18, 2013 from 3-5 p.m.
University of Oklahoma, Norman Research Campus

Members Present: Lawrence Baines, Rena Cook, David Craig, Kirsten de Beurs, Chitru Fernando, Randy Hewes, J.T. Johnson, Marguerite Keesee, Hong Liu, Sheena Murphy, Paul Spicer, Charles Warnken, Kim Winton, Musharraf Zaman

VPR Office Staff Present: Andrea Deaton, Kelvin Droegemeier, Alicia Knoedler, Cathi Parker

Brief Introduction: Dr. Droegemeier thanked Dr. Musharraf Zaman for his service to the committee. Dr. Zaman is stepping down and will be replaced on the AC/VPR committee by Dr. Simin Pulat effective Spring 2014.

Update on State and Federal budget (K. Droegemeier): Norman Campus research expenditures came in closer to projections in October; the state universities have requested $65 million more for higher education; there is expected to be an upcoming announcement regarding out-of-state tuition scholarships; President Boren is pushing for a salary program this year, with a merit/cost-of-living increase possible – this is a work in progress and more news is expected next calendar year. Dr. Droegemeier shared a handout from the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities entitled “Survey on Sequestration Effects, Selected Results from Private and Public Research Universities; the National Science Foundation may endure a 5% budget cut next year; the National Institutes of Health are throttling the number of proposals that are allowed to be submitted by universities.

VPR budget outlook (K. Droegemeier): The VPR budget is incredibly constrained at this time with $400,000 in expenditures, inherited debt, and IDC is flat. This will require our office to decline a lot more things, lack of funding for startup, delay in hiring faculty, and a need for a greater degree of partnering.

- Is the budget tied to IDC? Yes, we recover 32% of 52%, we have a five-year budget plan which can be difficult to project, and we’ll continue to press forward in a strategic way.
- We need a better strategy to deal with private companies in regards to IP negotiations, problematic federal tax laws; we’re leaving a lot of revenue on the table.

Federal legislation that could impact research grants (K. Droegemeier): The Reauthorization of AMERICA Competes is causing lots of thrashing in Congress due to its reauthorization. Issues include posting names of reviewers before the proposal selection process is complete. This could cause fundamental changes at the National Science Foundation. The Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, Association of American Universities and other groups are mobilizing on this issue.

Requested change to Research Council membership (K. Droegemeier): An analysis of three years of data was done to determine the number of proposals and the needs of the Research Council. This analysis is before the Faculty Senate now. Effective next year, they propose changing from 13 to 15 members. Most of the general categories have been modified in some way, but the increased representation will occur primarily in the Humanities and Fine Arts (1 new member representing each).

Results from national survey on Vice Presidents for Research and APLU Annual Meeting (K. Droegemeier): The VPR Office conducted a national survey on Vice Presidents for Research and the results were somewhat predictable, the response rate was about 38% and the IRB has approved reissuing the survey. Dr. Droegemeier will provide the PowerPoint presentation to the committee members.

- What are VPRs? There is a huge spectrum of differences.
- Are we doing the things needed to “grow” people into VPRs? The Vice President for Research used to
be joined with the Graduate College Dean, but this is now changing. The Council on Research Policy and Graduate Education provides training for new Vice Presidents for Research about strategic/research planning and understanding the academic culture.

**Report on the EPSCoR National Meeting and the Gender Summit (A. Knoedler):** All EPSCoR states attended the national meeting in Nashville, TN in November. Some states brought their Congressional representatives and a number of states focused on climate change. There is an opportunity nationally for EPSCoR states to pull together with a conversation expected in December to discuss greater collaboration on technical topics related to climate change. Dr. Knoedler will keep the AC/VPR committee informed of any new information. Dr. Knoedler, Sheena Murphy, Jill Irvine, Keri Kornelson, and Lara Souze attended the Gender Summit held in Washington, DC. There were 130 speakers and we hope to “borrow” some effective practices for OU.

**Update on the Cayuse SP implementation and the new electronic routing process (A. Deaton):** Ms. Deaton updated everyone on the second week of the Cayuse implementation. Some changes noted were a streamlined info sheet, all legacy data has been moved to the new system, and an online tutorial on the ORS website, and interaction with Proposal Services staff will not change. Dr. Droegemeier complimented the ORS staff on the seamless transition which has been provided.

**General Discussion:**
A general discussion followed with general updates by various committee members.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be scheduled after the holiday break and will be held from 3-5 p.m. in the Charlie Conference Room.