



Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

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Notes from Faculty Advisory Committee Meeting November 25, 2013

Attendees: John McGrath, Kevin Cunningham, Mary Montoye, Sivaram Narayan, Mary Senter, Adam Epstein, Elina Erzikova, Rachel Caspari, Ksenia Ustinova, Megan Goodwin, Neil Christensen, Crina Tarasi

Absent: Janet Sturm, Jamie Johansen, Ed McKee, Steve Roberts, Brad Long

1. McGrath indicated that the minutes from the November 13, 2013 Faculty Advisory Committee meeting had been distributed. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved.
2. McGrath provided an update on information he received from the Deans on the potential of continuing with a Statistical Consulting Center. The Deans don't feel a need for a university wide center as there are different needs among the colleges. Any faculty who have input should provide that directly to their deans.
3. McGrath continued discussion on how to communicate information shared at the Faculty Advisory Committee meetings with the rest of the faculty. CHSBS indicated that after each meeting their faculty representative will write up a synopsis and send it to the department chairs through Karen Wixom. ORSP will initiate a process to post the meeting notes on the ORSP website. ORSP is happy to meet with college faculty. Each college will need to decide the best forum for these meetings to take place.
4. McGrath had re-sent the summary from the ORSP/Faculty dialogues that occurred last fiscal year. He asked if there were any particular issues that need addressed. One comment was that it's hard for ORSP to deliver services without adequate resources and some of the issues that came up during the dialogues, seems to be a wish list of things the faculty would like. Another comment was that ORSP is in a situation where they give the same attention to every proposal, when some proposals may have a better chance of getting funded than others. ORSP has not normally been in a position to tell a faculty member that a proposal will not be submitted, but instead is to encourage faculty to submit proposals. There was discussion about matching senior faculty with less senior faculty in a mentorship program. The deans seem interested in pursuing opportunities like this. ORSP has been working with the deans on a potential pre-submission review process; details are still being discussed.

5. The Committee continued discussion on the university strategic planning goals and metrics. The following are areas of concern and need continued discussion:

- are impact factors a relevant metric?
- how are impact factors computed at the institutional level?
- should the focus be on quality and not quantity?
- the metrics need to be operationalized
- how do you count the number of students engaged?
- where did the data come from?
- OFIS is not updated and therefore not a good source of data
- concern about peer groups
- strategic planning should involve the stakeholders
- can journal quality be ranked on other than impact factors?
- we need to understand the metrics and what they mean
- how are the goals going to be measured
- what are the steps taken to attain goals
- are there other metrics that don't engender so much contention?
- need common metrics to they can be aggregated
- no metrics that involve book publishing which is an important criteria
- should the number of citations be included?
- since the metrics have been presented to the Board of Trustees, can they be modified?