Senate Research Committee Meeting Minutes  
September 16, 2019; 3:00 PM  
365 Edgewood Avenue Building

Attendees:  Margo Brinton, Laura Burtle, Brenda Chapman, Daniel Crimmins, Andrew Gewirtz, Qian Gu, Nadine Kabengi, Candace Kemp, Tony Lemieux, Elizabeth Lim, Songqi Liu, Anne Murphy, Martin Norgaard, Maggie Renken, Ed Rigdon, Maryann Romski, Vjollca Sadiraj, Rose A. Sevcik (Chair), Kelly Stout, Jelena Subotic, Kris Varjas, Desiree Wanders, and Julie Washington

Absentees:  Charlie Benson, Zhipeng Cai, Dabney Dixon, Sabrina Freeney, Glenn Harrison, Xiaochun He, Jan Ivery, Mariana Montiel, Sally Robertson, Bill Robinson, Jack Williams, and Aleksandr Zelikovsky

Minutes:  Rose Baldwin

1. The August 26, 2019 minutes were approved.

2. Dr. Chapman provided a brief update on the annual Disclosure of the Significant Financial Interest form, and to date they have received over 1,000 completed forms with 300 remaining to complete.

3. Internal Grants Program update: the Research Initiation Grant (RIG) and Scholarly Support Grant (SS) programs are performing strongly to date.
   
   Dr. Subotic proposed the idea of adding multiple levels of funding rather than the $20,000 currently offered (eg $5K, $10K, or $20K) as she believes this will give more faculty access to the funding pool. She requested feedback from the senate members. Dr. Stout provided a general informational overview on the evaluation process of the Internal Grants Program. Dr. Stout indicated that some faculty have mentioned not requiring the entire $20,000 for their proposed projects. Chair Sevcik explained the need to allow broader participation for faculty and noted the current opportunity to make changes (if applicable) to the Call for Proposals on the said grant programs. She also shared an example of a past successful $5K initiative that allowed faculty to travel to archival sites or complete a book project. The majority of members decided it was not advantageous to create multiple award levels after weighing on the advantages and disadvantages. Chair Sevcik announced that the subcommittee would continue discussion on this topic.

   Dr. Stout presented the summary report on the FY14-FY20 RIG and Scholarly Support Grant programs. Overall, the return on investments from these grant mechanisms continue to look strong; however, she noted that information from awardees re: securing external awards lags and is not always available on expected timelines.

4. The SRC was asked to partner with the joint senate committee on faculty salary, equity, and compression. Dr. Kris Varjas and Dr. Andrew Gewirtz have agreed to represent the SRC on this issue on this committee. Dr. Varjas added the committee strives to ensure transparency for faculty. Dr. Subotic raised concerns with working with outdated data and professors who are taken out of the regular merit pool.

5. Chair Sevcik was asked by Ms. Linda Nelson (AVP, HR) of SRC’s input on the job requirements for the additional person to handle sponsor-funded hiring in HR. Dr. Murphy offered several ideas such as ensure redundancy in the hiring process (eg HR floater), streamline the hiring process, and creation of a committee to work through HR issues related to sponsor-funded hiring that would include faculty and staff who are directly impacted. Chair Sevcik will inquire from Ms. Nelson of her exact timeline for the feedback from this committee.
6. Dr. Romski provided an update from the infrastructure committee, specifically noting that the faculty survey they developed in order to obtain feedback over time on the pre/post award grant administration will not be discussed further until the Huron report is shared and those recommendations are assessed.

7. Chair Sevcik provided reminders that Dr. Jerry Radcliffe will be attending October’s meeting to discuss the university’s budget, and Dr. Lisa Armistead (the inaugural dean) will be attending November’s meeting to speak about her vision in her role in the new graduate school.

The next meeting will be held on October 21, 2019 at 3:00 PM in Room 365 of the 58 Edgewood Avenue Building.