College of Education
RESEARCH COMMITTEE
Thursday, September 25, 2003
Minutes

Members Present: Jennifer Austin, Robert Dedrick (Council Liaison and for Tony Onwuegbuzie), Gladis Kersaint, Carol Mullen (Chair), JoAnn Eickhoff-Shanek, Nancy Williams

Ex-Officios Present: Lou Carey, Pat Daniel

Members Absent: Tony Onwuegbuzie, Jim Paul

Other Attendees: Dan Gardner, Jean Linder, Maria Paul (for Carine Feyten), Rebecca Wilkins

Call to Order
Carol Mullen, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

Guest Speaker

Dan Gardner, from the Provost’s Office, spoke to the Committee about the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The USF is dedicated to improving the quality of its programs and services consistent with the context if its mission, resources and capacities. Furthermore, it is committed to creating and improving the environment in which teaching, research, and learning occurs.

The University initiated a formal quality enhancement planning process on February 3, 2003. Provost S. David Stamps appointed a committee of faculty members and administrators and charged it to design a quality enhancement plan (QEP) by October 2004. Dean Stuart Silverman, Honors College, agreed to provide leadership for the development of USF’s QEP after Dean Renu Khator was appointed Interim Provost.

In addition to facilitating action directed at significantly improving the quality of programs and services, the USF QEP will be prepared consistent with the guidelines defined by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). SACS defines a QEP as a “…course of action for institutional improvement that addresses one or more issues that contribute to institutional quality, with special attention to student learning. The QEP is a significant component of the reaffirmation process and should be designed to demonstrate a capacity to address significant issues and aspirations.”
(www.acad.usf.edu/IE/QEP/QEPmain)

Now is the opportunity to strengthen USF with respect to research. A lot of emphasis is placed on research at the graduate level, in grants, contracts, and a number of doctrines produced but research at the undergraduate level should be explored. The Boyer Report (www.acad.usf.edu/IE/QEP/QEPcases) suggested that research institutions could
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improve if they improved undergraduate research in different ways of teaching, how students are challenged to think, how instructors present and what they present. Then setting up mechanisms that would allow students to be active partners with faculty members and their research.

The general education program has not been looked at for approximately 9 years. While the University is reviewing the general education program for improvements, maybe the circle will intersect with the undergraduate research and develop a plan for the University.

Will there be any monies to get things off the ground for undergraduate research? Money has always been an issue. There may be some funding mechanism and there may be some money to establish an office of undergraduate research (there may be funds awarded, additional funding for activities like Childhood Education and maybe some funds placed into grants).

The University has a center called the Center for Research Evaluation and Measurement Assessment where there is ongoing research and evaluation grants with different colleges, topics, school districts, and where undergraduate students have been invited to do research internships. The problem with undergraduate research is the lack of training in research. There are teams of faculty and graduate students who work in collaboration with the undergraduates, giving them the experience and skills they need. Faculty mentors follow-up with the students. This is a great opportunity to set a person on their life path. Several handouts were distributed.

Old Business

- Discussed the CAS Symposium from last year and reviewed report from Carol Burg, Doctoral Student. Should the COE hold own symposium or collaborate with the CAS, or another option is to hold the conference online using available software, as suggested by Sherman Dorn.
- Research Theme Articulation Task Force met twice and enjoyed very healthy discussions. They are scheduled to meet with Dean Kennedy.
- Differentiated Staffing – numerous discussions were held with lots of feedback – surveys were taken with positive responses and Carol Mullen published a research based article that extended the research committee’s efforts that she distributed – Dean does not believe this would work.
- College of Education website – this website is in the process of being reworked.

New Business

Mary Lou Morton, Childhood Education, is the College of Education’s representative for the University Research Council (2001-2004). The Research Council serves as a Faculty Senate Committee and works with the Vice President of Research, Dr. Phillips. The work of the University Research Council is to promote increased research efforts. Part of that
involves reviewing and deciding on internal awards in the fall and spring. Two handouts were distributed for review, they are application guidelines for Interdisciplinary Research Development Grant and Creative Scholarship Grant. These documents may be viewed down in the College Council office.

The University Research Council reported the following (this was from the URC minutes):

**Internal Awards Program**
- Reduced funding in 2001-2002 academic year due to budget constraints (1 award cycle rather than 2 award cycles for year)
- Research Council proposed redesign of program in 2001-2002 academic year; proposal accepted by Strategic Committee on Research in Spring 2002
- Redesigned application guidelines and review criteria in Fall 2002
- Implemented pilot of redesigned program for all but two award categories (Interdisciplinary and Grant Training) in Fall 2002
- Refined review procedures in Spring 2003
- Implemented pilot of redesigned program for all categories in Spring 2003
- RC developing plan for evaluating impact of redesigned Internal Awards Program on accomplishing mission of stimulating faculty productivity in extramurally funded research

**President Young Faculty Award**
- Requested clarification from President’s Office regarding Research Council Committee role in 2001-2003 academic year
- Research Council committee advisory to review committee convened by President’s Office reviewed and ranked proposal in Spring 2002
- For Spring 2003, review of applications solely by committee convened by President’s Office

**Faculty Research Incentive Program**
- Original taskforce chaired by Dale Johnson with Drs. Lindsey & Forthofer as active members
- Proposal (known as “EFIS” – External Funding Incentive Stipend) approved by Strategic Committee on Research in summer 2001, referred to Provost’s Office for development of implementation plan
- Program withdrawn prior to implementation; reasons cites as implementation barriers and feasibility for stimulating research among faculty on 9-month contracts
- Alternative program implemented Health Sciences Center-wide in Summer 2002
- Continued interest among Research Council to implement campus-wide program

**FAST!! Financials System**
- Chair of Research Council has participated in development processes as representative of research faculty
Faculty Prize for Outstanding Research Performance

- Research Committee reviewed applications and made recommendations to Vice President of Research

Outstanding Faculty Research Achievement Award

Request for systematic distribution with the COE this year of opportunity for outstanding faculty research achievement award (President’s $5,000 Award)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next Research meeting is scheduled for October 30, 2003 at 10:00 am in EDU 219. Guest speakers for this meeting will be Dr. Jeff Kromrey, Measurement and Melinda Hess, GRAPE

Minutes Transcribed by

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