Committee on Research Approved Minutes
12 November 2015
SA 4600

Members present: Stephanie Couch, Jenny O, Jean Moran, Jeff Seitz, Jeffra Bussmann, Helen Zong, Brian Du

Guests present: Carolyn Nelson, Mark Robinson

1. Approval of the agenda
   Motion Bussmann, Second O, approved unanimously as amended

2. Approval of the 10/22/15 minutes
   Motion Couch, Second O, approved unanimously

3. Report of the Chair
   No report.

4. Report of the Presidential appointee
   • There have been staffing changes in ORSP; a new Director of Grant Administration (pre and post award) was hired.
   • Rachael Leone has left ORSP and there will be a search for a new pre award manager.
   • Regarding grant award development (budget development, etc.), the Info-ready tool has been “onboarded” as a pilot. It may be a tool for automated IRB requests.

5. Business:
   a. Teacher Scholar Taskforce (Interim Provost Carolyn Nelson, FAC Chair Dr. James Murray; 2:10pm time certain)
      The Provost discussed that the new faculty program will provide 3 units/semester for 3 years of assigned time for research and scholarship. There is a need for clear criteria for selection and expectations of finished products. What should be the expectations for continuing support after each year? She emphasized that this is a campus-wide opportunity.

Questions from CR members:
   • Could this be implemented before semester conversion?
   • Would new faculty be eligible since they already receive release time?
   • Is 3 units/semester enough to get the work done?
   • Could a faculty member get both an FSG and this opportunity?
   • Perhaps units could be taken during different quarters during a year to help facilitate research?
   • Accountability is a big concern.
The Provost indicated that the successful awardees would be an expert group to help lead campus-wide efforts to establish a rigorous research culture/effort at CSUEB; they would serve as a leadership group for building scholarly/research capacity and serve as mentors for other faculty. In addition, this opportunity should build capacity for external funding or larger scale project. The Provost further indicated that there is a lot of talent among faculty and this may help to make it more visible to others.

Discussion of the committee included that the product might be an external grant proposal and peer-reviewed publication from the perspective of the science disciplines. What would be the expectations for different disciplines?

The committee questioned whether this should be something available only to tenured faculty? Or eligible in 3rd year after hire (when new faculty RT is completed)? The Provost indicated that this program could be a pilot that would be reevaluated and the RFP could be changed.

Possible action items: revisit as committee? CR offer initial parameters about the opportunity in order to begin develop an RFP. There was a question about the role of FAC. Perhaps FAC could discuss the the mentorship opportunity of the awardees?

b. Faculty compensation for supervising for Special registration courses such as Independent Study and Thesis. (Interim Provost Carolyn Nelson, FAC Chair Dr. James Murray)

The committee discussed that there doesn’t seem to be a campus-wide policy regarding faculty compensation for special registration courses. This is having a chilling effect on high impact practices when faculty don’t get units for special registration. Independent study is an opportunity for students to be engaged in faculty-mentored research.

There are K factors (workload factors) for these courses: 0.45 wtu for graduate units and 0.33 wtu for undergraduate units. In addition, the committee noted that there is a small group of faculty taking on the largest proportion of this workload. This is a huge issue for graduate programs and the current situation is not sustainable.

There was a suggestion that perhaps a faculty member could only get units after a student completes a thesis. Other members objected that faculty compensation should not be dependent upon student performance.

There was a question about the time expectation for advising? 3 of 15 wtu’s each term are for academic advising and other faculty service.

There was concern regarding the CLASS policy regarding Special Registration courses where faculty would be “excused” from committee and other work rather than having the units count toward their instruction. This would work to disable the Faculty governance process.
The Provost indicated that the final solution is going to be balanced with College budgets.

There was the suggestion that the next meeting agenda should include an opportunity to comment on the proposed FAC policy.

c. Cost Sharing/Matching Policy
There was the suggestion that the document should prompt faculty to complete documentation of voluntary uncommitted cost sharing and included on Proposal Routing Form. This policy is substantive and will be sent to the Senate as an information item.

d. Exceptional Co-Principal Investigator Status Policy
Revisit at next meeting.

e. Committee Secretary for Winter 2016 quarter
Jeffra Bussmann volunteered and was approved by acclamation.

6. Adjournment 3.42 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffery Seitz