

Faculty Senate Committee on Research, Scholarship,
Creative Activities and Engagement

Meeting on November 9, 2012 at 1:00 pm in PCA 340

Minutes

The meeting of the Committee was called to order by the Committee Chairperson Allan Rosenbaum. Committee members present included Alexander Agoulnik, Charles Bleiker, Werner Boeglin, Chongsheng Cao, Steven Heine and Laurie Richardson.

For the first hour of the meeting, Andres Gil, the Vice President for Research was present to provide the Committee with an overview of the priorities of his division for this academic year. These included the following matters:

- a) The Division continues to work to create research networks involving faculty members from different academic units who share an interest in a specific area of research. The Division hopes to create 4 or 5 such networks and feels that this is an effective strategy both because multi-disciplinary research is a priority for research funders and because often there is only a short turnaround time to respond to announcements of possible funding and, thus, an established network has an advantage.
- b) The Division is hoping to encourage individual departments to establish processes by which senior faculty in the department are available to review grant proposals being developed by junior faculty and provide advice and guidance on improving them.

There was also a general discussion of the issues surrounding potential conflict of interest and a discussion of the new federal regulations which placed the burden for assessing conflict of interest on the institution. In that regard, the institution is responsible for addressing questions of potential conflict of interest not only as regards its own faculty, but also any individuals or organizations with which it may subcontract.

The Committee then engaged in a brief, informal discussion with Vice President Gil on a variety of different topics involving research activity at FIU. These included some discussion of the research activity of different schools and colleges within FIU. It was noted in that regard that current research funding is at 100 million dollars with a goal of reaching 156 million by 2015.

The second half of the meeting was devoted to discussing the analysis of the Committee's questionnaire on research, scholarship, creative activity and engagement which had recently been sent to the FIU faculty. The Committee was joined by Rachel Emas, Gretha Burchard and Jeisson Rodriguez, three PhD students in the Department of Public Administration who are carrying out the analysis of the data. For the past couple of weeks they have been coding the responses to the questionnaire and will continue to do that. Approximately 500 faculty members have responded to the questionnaire. They are more or less equally divided among assistant,

associate and full professors. It is anticipated that over the next couple of months the data will be further analyzed and a report developed by the Committee for submission to the Faculty Senate.

Finally, a brief discussion occurred regarding the recent directive from the Faculty Senate Steering Committee for the Committee on Research, Scholarship, Creative Activities and Engagement to review the use by the Provost's office of Academic Analytics. It was agreed that the Chairperson of the Committee should, in the next week or two, meet with the Chairperson of the Faculty Senate to further discuss this matter as a first step in responding to the Steering Committee directive.