

November 2007 FRAC Minutes

Led by Dr. Sandra H. Harpole, Associate VP for Research

1. Dr. Harpole discussed the Research Initiation Program (RIP) review process.
 - * The panel of reviewers will be held confidential by ORED.
 - * Ranking system was eliminated to prevent bias
 - * Colleges main role is to assist the faculty in improving their proposal before submission to ORED.

2. The FRAC Committee was to discuss the methods ORED can evaluate its effectiveness. The following are comments from that discussion.
 - * The committee likes the monthly newsletters
 - * The office gives the appearance of having “no secrets”
 - * The committee was not aware of how the vice president was alienated from the faculty and was glad they were made aware.
 - * ORED can increase effectiveness by having more faculty interactions.
 - * In assessing the effectiveness of ORED, it needs to be determined if evaluation should be on the perception of effectiveness or the reality or performance.
 - * ORED should announce funding opportunities
 - * ORED needs to decide how to use congressional money vs. competitive money.
 - * Before university wide evaluation can be done, ORED needs to identify desired outcomes: collect hard data, collect soft data (perceptions), and weight the items.
 - * ORED should provide guidance on how centers and academic departments work together as well as VP for Research and MAFES.
 - * FRAC needs to adjust own perception
 - * ORED should assess compliance vs. facilitation
 - * ORED should continue positive communication
 - * ORED could use an exit survey for people who have access to various services (customer satisfaction survey)
 - * ORED should provide the results of different economic development presentations to those who presented at the meetings in order to gauge the effectiveness of their efforts.
 - * ORED should encourage university spin-off businesses with venture capitalists.

Chuck Rivenburgh is not consistent in his responses