CSACS - CENTER FOR SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY, COLLABORATION, AND SUPPORT

Minutes from meeting on Wednesday, June 6, 2012
Teleconferenced between Macon and Savannah Campuses

Macon Attendees: Suzie Lamarca, Paul Seale, Betsy Smith, Mike Smith, David Parish, Randy Devereaux, Dean Bina, Alice House, Monique Davis-Smith, Rob McKallip, Andrea Meyer, Kerry Coburn, ChiChi Nwankwo;

Savannah Attendees: Jane Bridges, Marie Dent, James Knapp, Jennifer Li, Phil Malan, Zhi-Qing Zhao

Dr. David Parish provided a short overview of CSACS (Center for Scholarly Activity, Collaboration, and Support) from prior years and how it had functioned. A general discussion followed regarding needs of the faculty and whether a group such as this could contribute to promoting scholarly activities among the MUSM faculty. Dr. Rob McKallip, Chair of the Research Committee, informed the group of the survey undertaken by the Research Committee regarding research collaboration and indicated he would report back to the group once the survey results had been analyzed.

The discussion which followed has been summarized and the items grouped by topic.

GOALS:
1. Provide a forum for faculty across disciplines and campuses who desire to become more involved in research
2. Learn the types if scholarly activities that are being pursued by faculty
3. Stimulate/encourage collaboration across the disciplines and across the campuses.

GRANTS: Faculty expressed interest in the following information/programs

1. Host a program conducted by those who currently have grants, identifying the types of grants and their requirements.
2. Identify the best sources of grants that are available for a school of our size and infrastructure. Include federal, foundation grants (such as American Heart Association), other private sources.
3. Provide information for grants from Mercer University Seed Grants, Med Cen Grants (MCCG), and Memorial Foundation Grants including deadlines for applying, application process, and amounts of awards.
4. Conduct a grant writing workshop. Suggestion was to bring in a grant writer or send someone to a workshop and have them return and conduct a workshop.
5. Host a panel of grantees to discuss their grants, suggested time lines, advice on grant writing, and tip to make potential grantees more competitive.
6. Brainstorm potential grant ideas, particularly identifying any low hanging fruit and exploring the soundness of ideas.

BUILDING COLLABORATION: Faculty expressed interest in developing mechanisms to support collaboration among departments and campuses. It was noted that funding agencies today look for
evidence of collaboration and these types of applications are viewed more favorably. Collaboration will require knowledge of colleagues and their interests.

1. Identify a website accessible from the MUSM home page that would provide the following:
   a. List of faculty publications
   b. List of faculty grants and clinical trials.
   c. List of faculty, their interests, and contact info
2. Conduct an inventory of research skills so that faculty would know who to contact for support in a particular area, for example, statistical support.

**PUBLICATIONS/MANUSCRIPTS/PRESENTATIONS**

1. Provide a forum for reviewing and editing publications
2. Present a workshop on “Writing for Research”
3. Peer review articles; manuscripts prior to submission. This might be accomplished either in a large group or by circulating to willing participants.
4. Provide a forum for faculty to make presentations prior to presenting at national/regional meetings.

**MENTORING**

1. Identify basic skills needed to conduct research including grant writing, basic statistics, publication and presentation skills.
2. Identify potential mentors and mentees
3. Identify individuals interested in mentoring and develop a formal or informal mentoring program.

**OTHER**

1. Conduct a Needs Assessment to identify potential needs, basic skills required for grant writing and research
2. Long term, identify/hire a point person to assist with grant applications.
3. If CSACS host a presentation, use streaming video so that others could view the presentations. We should have this capability with our teaching resources.