

USF Health Morsani College of Medicine

Committee on Research (COMCOR)

Annual Report

2014-2015

Committee Charge: The COMCOR is charged with making policy recommendations related to research and the research environment of the Morsani College of Medicine (MCOM). The committee is responsible for responding to changes that may impact research in the MCOM, and for aiding in the development of new policies that proactively facilitate a productive research environment. The committee chair acts a liaison with the Executive and Management Committee on Research.

Summary of 2014-2015 COMCOR Activities: The committee's effort went toward implementing a pre-submission review program for NIH grant applications. Other issues addressed during the year included concerns about overuse of MCOM space and core equipment by College of Pharmacy researchers, ongoing problems with metrics to evaluate faculty performance, general discussions regarding regulatory burden, and the new Shimberg Library resources for researchers that have been under development.

In January-February, 2015, members of the COMCOR performed a test run of the new grant application review program with three NIH grant applications. Two were R01 applications and the third was an R21. Of these, one of the R01s was a new submission, the second was a revised application, and the R21 was also a revised application. Feedback was provided to the applicants. Still Point Coaching also participated by reviewing the applications and providing feedback. The R01 applicants both expressed that the pre-submission review was helpful. The outcomes of the R01 applications were favorable, with rankings in the 9th and 11th percentiles. The R21 application was not scored.

The COMCOR sent an email to the faculty announcing the program on March 24, 2015. Faculty can send their proposals to the email address MCOMproposalreview@health.usf.edu for pre-submission review. Two grant applications (one R01, one R21) were reviewed by COMCOR members for this cycle. Some other faculty expressed general interest in the program but did not forward applications for review.

Future Directions: In the coming year, discussion topics will likely include current limitations in lab space, needs for updated core equipment, and development of an MD/PhD program. The committee encourages any faculty member who has new ideas to enhance the research activity at MCOM to contact us.

Respectfully Submitted on Behalf of the COMCOR

Jerome W. Breslin, PhD
Chair