SCORS report 2014-15

The SCORS report 2010-11 nicely summarizes the purview of SCORS. Here we list the topics discussed. The list of attending members is attached at the end.

Distribution of indirect costs (IDC) from research grants.
For details, see the minutes of Oct 08 2014 (Stephanie Gray) Dec 10 2014 (George Kolb, office of research; Kimberly Browne, IFAS). No presentation from CoEng. We noted the following

All IDC goes to units; service units charge back a fixed amount. Consequently, grants without overhead (and special negotiations) represent a net cost to the unit (but may still be desirable in that they support trainees, students, etc.)

IDC is distributed to the colleges. Typically 10% go to the PI, and different amounts are kept at the Dean's level. IFAS and CLAS distribute 7.5% to centers when applicable, CoEng does not.

VP of Research has a 2 mio strategic fund.

Academic Analytics

For details, see minutes of the Dec, Jan and Feb meetings. Provost Glover gave a presentation Nov 19 2014 (no slides since the format of AA is proprietary).

Academic Analytics is a software that attempts to coalesce public, but un-curated data on individual faculty's grants and publications and honors into a database for queries according to different user-set metrics. AA states that it measures *academic performance*.

Currently only the Provost has full access to the newly acquired premium version of AA that allows viewing individual faculty. However, select data has been shared with the Deans throughout the year. A request by SCORS to see these data was not answered. However, the provost shared a white paper from Nov 2014 from Academic Analytics (the company) with SCORS.

One round of discussion on Academic Analytics (AA) was triggered by a solicitation by an administrator at UF to faculty to immediately add information to a database in order to ensure a good AA rating.

Here are some questions that SCORS developed (see also Dec 2014 and Jan 2015 minutes):

What groups are allowed to look at AA information?
Should SCORS have a subcommittee to oversee the use of Academic Analytics?
Should SCORS write a best practices or guidelines on the use of Academic Analytics?

If the pressure to adopt AA comes from the outside, why is there such uncertainty about its internal use?

If a faculty or groups of faculty were to curate their information (currently the data are not accessible to faculty) -- how would they know whether the pool of faculty they are compared against have done so, too?

If the data are vetted and complete, would a false sense of objectivity be attached since the weights can be chosen in arbitrarily. (Weights are currently taken from a partly discredited NRC survey.)

Professor of Practice

Angel Kwolek-Folland presented two versions of the introduction of the PoP title. Apparently, as of April 2015, this title will be introduced at UF via UF regulations rather than by vote in the senate.

The opinion of SCORS to the newer, second proposal was mixed: on one hand the possibility of hiring personnel supporting education under the title was welcomed, on the other hand the wisdom of using the title of professor (rather than say `expert') for a group of faculty that explicitly is not expected to participate in all or even any of the tasks  that wikipedia associates with the title `professor' seems odd.

Research directions

On invitation by SCORS, David Norton joined the Council for its April meeting. The discussion centered around the tension between the requirements of running a business based on grant revenue (and the fair distribution of IDC, say to centers) and uncharted, original research. An alternative model for research opportunity awards (smaller, less overhead) was considered as a straw-man proposal.

Possible Items for Next Year's Agenda:

Form a subcommittee to oversee the use of Academic Analytics and develop best practices and guidelines on the use of its data.

Should the library help non-IT-savvy faculty to post their version of their publications ? (This is *different from pre-paid open access*!)

Add a credible "what if" component to the myinvestigator tool.

Submitted by
Jorg Peters, Chair SCORS

SCORS roster 2014/15

#	First	Last	Title	Department	Year	Role	Address	Phone	Email
1	David	Norton	Vice President	Vice President's Office-Resea		Contributing Committee	PO Box 115500	392-9271	dpnorton@ufl.edu
2	Jorg	Peters	Professor	Computer Information Science	2015	Chair	PO Box 116120	392-1200	jorggato@ufl.edu
3	Irene	Cooke	Assistant Vice President	Research Compliance		Administrative Liaison	223 Grinter Hall	392-1632	irenecooke@ufl.edu
4	Florin	Curta	Professor	History	2016	Senate Member	PO Box 117320	273-3367	fcurta@ufl.edu
5	Henry	Frierson	Assistant Vice President and	Graduate School		Administrative Liaison	PO Box 115500	392-6622	hfrierson@ufl.edu
6	Stephanie	Gray	Director, Division of Sponsored	Division of Sponsored Research		Administrative Liaison	PO Box 115500	392-3516	slgray@ufl.edu
7	Sobha	Jaishankar	Assistant Vice President	Research Program Development		Administrative Liaison	PO Box 115500	392-8247	sjaishan@ufl.edu
8	Jasmeet	Judge	Associate Professor	Agricultural and Biological Eng	2015	Senate Membetr	PO Box 110570	392-1864 x929	jasmeet@ufl.edu
9	Edith	Kaan	Associate Professor	Linguistics	2017	Senate Member	PO Box 115454	294-7453	kaan@ufl.edu
10	Gillian	Lord	Associate Professor and Cha	Spanish and Portuguese Stud	2017	Senate Member	PO Box 117405	273-3749	glord@ufl.edu