

Research Planning Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 21, 2016
2:15 p.m.
Doisy Research Center, 9th Floor Conference Room
Minutes

Members Present:

Enrico Di Cera, M.D., Chair
Thomas Burris, Ph.D.
Dale Dorsett, Ph.D.
John Edwards, M.D., Ph.D.
Daniel Hoft, M.D., Ph.D.
Jackie Kornbluth, Ph.D.
Adriana M. Montaño, Ph.D.
Michael Rauchman, M.D.
Jeff Scherrer, Ph.D.
John Tavis, Ph.D.
Joel Eissenberg, Ph.D., *ex officio*
Paul Hauptman, M.D., *ex officio*
Denise Johnson, *ex officio*
Ken Olliff, D.Min., MBA, *ex officio*
William Wold, Ph.D., *ex officio*

Members Not Present:

Terry Egan, Ph.D.
John Long, D.V.M., *ex officio*
Raymond Tait, Ph.D., *ex officio*

Guest:

Brian Downes, Ph.D.

Enrico Di Cera, M.D., chair, called the meeting of the Research Planning Committee (RPC) of the Saint Louis University School of Medicine to order at 2:15 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21, 2016, in the Doisy Research Center, 9th Floor Conference Room.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the October 26, 2016 meeting were approved as submitted.

1. BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT RESEARCH

To better connect the research programs of the north and south campuses, Dr. Di Cera invited Brian Downes, Ph.D., associate chair, Department of Biology, to lead a discussion of Department of Biology's research and opportunities for collaboration with the School of Medicine. Dr. Downes distributed a handout with data on the Department's faculty, students and expertise.

Discussion Points:

- Strong interest was expressed in the new Bioinformatics and Computational Biology program being offered jointly by the Departments of Biology and Computer Science.

- Several RPC members voiced favorable opinions of current and former biology undergraduate student research assistants.
- More frequent (possibly quarterly) reminders for medical school faculty to update their research opportunity postings on the biology portal would be useful.
- Low SLU undergraduate application rate to the medical school's summer research and graduate programs was noted as a concern. The consensus was that insufficient communication is a factor.
- The Department of Biology's chapter of the national biological honor society, Tri-Beta, was raised as an effective means for medical school faculty to directly engage students.
- SLU biology students who pursue graduate school were discussed. A few continue in the SLU biology department. Many are encouraged to look at programs nationally. A high percent of students are unlikely aware of the School of Medicine's graduate programs or that programs may excuse core graduate classes if students enter with a Master's degree. Possible talent pipelines for medical school graduate programs should be explored and communication should be improved.
- An eight-year-running student led journal club supported by the American Society for Microbiology was highlighted as a success for cross campus student engagement.
- Availability and excellence of core facilities was noted as a common resource that needs to be more broadly communicated.

One of the largest barriers to closer life sciences collaboration between campuses is communication. A proposed action item was to add a north campus ex officio representative to the RPC. This will be addressed with the incoming Dean.

2. RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Eissenberg, associate dean for research, will update the RPC on the activities of the Grant Development Office at the January meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Johnson
Director, Planning and Operations