Research Planning Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 18, 2019
2:30 p.m.
Beaumont Conference Room
Minutes

Members Present:
David Ford, Ph.D., chairperson
Enrico Di Cera, M.D.
Rich DiPaolo, Ph.D.
Noah Hillman, M.D
Daniel Hoft, M.D., Ph.D.
Christine Jacobs, M.D.
Denise Johnson, ex officio
Oleg Kisselev, Ph.D., ex officio
Ken Olliff, D.Min., MBA, ex officio
Daniela Salvemini, Ph.D.
Jeff Teckman, M.D.
John Walker, Ph.D.
William Wold, Ph.D.

Members Not Present:
John P. Long, D.V.M., ex officio
Ravi Nayak, M.D.
Ratna Ray, Ph.D.

Guest:
David Gohara, Ph.D.

The Minutes of the November 20, 2019 meeting were approved as submitted.

1. **Research Computing Support**
   David Gohara, Ph.D., director of research computing, provided an update on the Research Computing Group, which offers research computing services to University faculty and students. At the request of David Hakanson, vice president and chief information officer, and Ken Olliff, vice president for research, a draft of a Research Computing Roadmap has been developed to help understand the needs of researchers and the challenges faced when integrating technologies into their research. Dr. Gohara reviewed the document, highlighting objectives, recommendations and next steps. A copy of the draft Research Computing Roadmap is available in the Office of Planning and Operations.

   A discussion was held on ideas and suggestions for the immediate funding of human resources with technical skills in the areas of:
   - Linux systems administration, preferably with experience in research environments
   - Programming or high-performance computing
   - Understanding of the tools and methods to compile software for parallel computing, job schedulers

- Computing, storage and networking experience for both traditional infrastructure and at least a strong interest in cloud-based environments (1-2 people)

Another discussion was held on ideas to sustainably keep research computing support operating:
- Personnel
- Cost models and charge backs
- Policies and governance related to resource life-cycles and support
- Data backups/archives
- How long will a resource be maintained before it's decommissioned (e.g. a server)
- What kind of investment should the University provide

2. RPC Research Growth Fund Priorities

A discussion was held regarding the optimal means to use the RGF to impact multiple investigators. This included the use of funds to provide research teams, enhance junior scientist and clinical scientist research programs and enhance research cores. Dr. Ford will draft an RFA for the RGF to be vetted by the committee and then viewed by the OVPR. This discussion also led to multiple members considering the funding of single cell sequencing instrumentation for the genomics core as an ideal use of the RGF. Dr. DiPaolo who will oversee this instrumentation was asked to submit a proposal for the RPC to fast track for RGF funding.

3. RPC Membership and Member Substitutes at Meetings

Dr. Ford reminded the Committee that items discussed at RPC meetings are confidential. Committee members who send a faculty member to represent them when they are unavailable to attend meetings, should remind their representative to maintain confidentially.

4. OVPR Updates

Applications for the 2020 Big Ideas are due on February 28, 2020.

Ken Olliff reported that Dean Wilmott, Enrico Di Cera, M.D., Oleg Kisselev, Ph.D., and he will be meeting with the president in January to discuss a multi-year strategic plan for growing research.

5. School of Medicine Research Updates

Dr. Di Cera announced that Saint Louis University and Washington University have entered an agreement that allows SLU researchers access to the Washington University Center of Cellular Imaging (https://wucci.wustl.edu), with priority, costs and technical assistance identical to those offered to WU faculty. A communication will be forwarded to faculty to encourage them to take advantage of this agreement in future research plans.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Johnson
Director, Planning and Operations