

Research Planning Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 26, 2020
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.
Denise Johnson, ex officio
Oleg Kisselev, Ph.D., ex officio
Ravi Nayak, M.D.
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:

Christine Jacobs, M.D.
Ratna Ray, Ph.D.

Guests:

Elizabeth Brennan
Jane Baum

1. The Minutes of the January 22, 2020, meeting were approved as submitted.

2. School of Medicine Development

Elizabeth Brennan, development director, School of Medicine and clinical programs, and Jane Baum, Assistant Vice President (interim), Medical Center Development, were invited to provide an update on development accomplishments and activities in the School of Medicine. The Medical Center Development Office is tasked with raising \$24M this fiscal year, as part of an overall campaign goal of \$100M. To date, \$69M has been raised. They are interested in a better understanding of the School of Medicine research strengths and current projects to assist in developing a case for support. Jane explained that each medical school department is assigned a development officer and they welcome the opportunity to meet with each department. Elizabeth has already met with the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

3. SOM Strategic Plan for Research

Enrico Di Cera, M.D., reviewed a proposal (distributed with agenda) he drafted in July 2017 for growing research in the School of Medicine. Certain aspects of this proposal were incorporated into the strategic plan of the School of Medicine. The proposal recommended that \$6M be allocated to grow research in the School of Medicine. He noted that to date, this has not been implemented.

He also reviewed two graphs (distributed with agenda), one on extramural grant expenditures and another on NIH funded PIs. There has been no growth in grant expenditures and we continue to lose PIs, mostly in the clinical departments.

A discussion followed on identifying a source of money to fund the strategic plan.

Action Item: Jeff Teckman, M.D., offered to draft a bullet document on the needs of the clinical departments to grow their research portfolio. This document will be distributed to Daniel Hoft, M.D., Ph.D., Ravi Nayak, M.D., and Oleg Kisselev, Ph.D., for input.

Action Item: Enrico Di Cera, M.D., to discuss the 2017 strategic plan for research with the dean.

4. President's Research Fund

David Ford, Ph.D., announced the six awardees of the President's Research Fund Cycle 17:

PI	Department/Division	Type	Awarded \$
Basic Science Departments			
Angel Baldan	Biochemistry & Molecular Biology	PRF03	\$50,000
James Brien	Molecular Microbiology and Immunology	PRF01	\$49,340
Krishan Pandey	Molecular Microbiology and Immunology	PRF01	\$41,350
Clinical Departments			
Sandeep Dhindsa	IM - Endocrinology	PRF01	\$50,000
Wilson King	Pediatrics - Cardiology	PRF02	\$54,207
Mustafa Nazzal	Surgery - Abdominal Implant	PRF02	\$55,103
Total Amount Awarded			\$300,000

Dr. Ford reported that he would like the RPC to revisit the PRF mechanism – who should apply, deadline date, review dates and study section date.

5. Research Growth Fund

David Ford, Ph.D., reported that he has been working with the Office of the Vice President for Research to improve the School of Medicine's use of the \$300,000 from the Research Growth Fund. He proposed that the Research Institute provide the RPC \$300,000 that can be used over the year as needed for School of Medicine research initiatives that match the Research Institutes goals. His proposal, along with the revised proposal with alterations suggested by Jasmin Patel, were distribute with the agenda.

Ken Olliff reported that the proposal was well received by the Research Institute and that the Research Institute requested a cap of \$50,000 on awards. Dr. Ford defended his proposal with no cap with the assurance that the RPC review of proposals will include evaluation against the five goals of the research institute:

- Achieve and sustain annual research expenditure growth that places SLU among the fastest growing universities in the country
- Establish eminence in strategic research priority areas
- Raise SLU's profile and reputation as a world-class research university

- Recruit and retain eminent research leaders and invest in their work
- Increase federal, industry, and philanthropic funding for research conducted at SLU

6. SOM Guidelines for No-Cost Extensions Policy

Denise Johnson reported that the School of Medicine is in the process of uploading its policies and procedures into PolicyStat, a web-based document management software for managing policies, procedures, and other important documentation. A copy of the School of Medicine policy on Guidelines for No-Cost Extensions was distributed with the agenda. She asked if there were any suggestions, edits or revisions before it was reviewed by the Medical Center Finance Office. Most RPC members were not familiar with the policy and had no suggested revisions.

7. Vice President for Research Updates

Ken Olliff reported that Dave Gohara, director of research computing, is leaving the University and that is position will be filled.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Johnson
Director, Planning and Operations