

**Research Planning Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 20, 2019**  
**2:30 p.m.**  
**Beaumont Conference Room**  
**Minutes**

**Members Present:**

David Ford, Ph.D., chairperson  
Enrico Di Cera, M.D.  
Adriana Montano, Ph.D., for Noah Hillman, M.D  
Ranjit Ray, Ph.D., for Daniel Hoft, M.D., Ph.D.  
Christine Jacobs, M.D.  
Denise Johnson, ex officio  
John P. Long, D.V.M., ex officio  
Ken Olliff, D.Min., MBA, ex officio  
Ratna Ray, Ph.D.  
Jeff Teckman, M.D.  
John Walker, Ph.D.  
William Wold, Ph.D.

**Members Not Present:**

Rich DiPaolo, Ph.D.  
Oleg Kisselev, Ph.D., ex officio  
Ravi Nayak, M.D.  
Daniela Salvemini, Ph.D.

**Guests:**

Matthew Christian

The Minutes of the October 23, 2019 meeting were approved as submitted.

**1. Research Institute Members**

Matthew Christian, associate vice president and chief of staff, Office of the Vice President for Research, presented an overview of the Research Institute membership. The Research Institute advances the University's existing research growth ambitions to grow scholarship and research. The purpose of a research membership is to create a community among research leaders from different schools and departments who are productive in their fields. The process to identify high research productivity will use objective measures. A list of the possible School of Medicine membership was provided in a handout which is available in the Office of Planning and Operations. The membership will be a three-year renewable appointment. It has been recommended that the Research Institute membership align with the standards for the School of Medicine bonus plan. One issue under consideration is to admit promising junior faculty.

The RPC discussed the membership and rationale, and the purpose and benefits of membership. Matthew clarified that decisions do not need to be made immediately. There will be discussions with each research council.

**2. Role of the Chief Diversity Officer**

Daniel Blash, Ph.D., vice dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, provided a presentation on “Why Should Researchers Care About Diversity.” The NIH recognizes a compelling need to promote diversity in the biomedical, behavioral, clinical and social sciences workforce. The NIH provided \$450.6 million to support research in Missouri in FY 2014. Of that, more than 80 percent was awarded to Washington University researchers. NIH diversity supplements are an important approach to supporting under-represented minority, disabled trainees and junior faculty. Diversity supplement applications have a quick review, no set deadline and a relatively high probability of funding. Dr. Blash offered his assistance to any investigator interested in applying for diversity supplements. After the meeting, a copy of his presentation was distributed to the RPC.

### **3. PRF/RGF Update**

Ken Olliff reported that the Office of the Vice President for Research will provide funding to the School of Medicine for PRF Cycle 17, as done in the past. The amount of Research Institute funding through a Research Growth Fund in the School of Medicine has not been determined.

### **4. Capital Requests and Collaborations between the Research Institute and the Research Planning Committee**

Ken Olliff reported that the Research Institute has the capital to help with infrastructure capital requests. Through the Big Ideas program, the RPC and the Research Growth Committee can work together to develop proposals. He asked the RPC to think of a couple of Big Ideas for a planning grant, up to \$100K.

### **5. Capital Requests – RPC Submitted Compared to Department Submitted**

Dr. Ford discussed that some committee members were concerned that capital requests made by RPC compared to departmental requests might reduce enthusiasm to award departmental requests. It is unclear how decisions for funding requests are made. We need to determine from those in charge of funding decisions, if an RPC compared to departmental request is reviewed more or less favorably.

### **6. Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) Announcements**

The Research Institute just approved the latest round of Big Ideas. Three proposals were selected to move forward with planning grants totaling \$30,000. Two of the three proposals were combined into one project. The projects receiving planning grants were Planning for a SLU Center for Global Jesuit Studies and AI@SLU.

The OVPR is working with a firm to develop templates for departments to use on the new research website.

### **7. School of Medicine Research Announcements**

Dr. Di Cera announced that the compensation plan was approved by the president.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Johnson  
Director, Planning and Operations