

Research Planning Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 28, 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.
Ranjit Ray, Ph.D., for Daniel Hoft, M.D., Ph.D.
Jackie Kornbluth, Ph.D.
Adriana M. Montaño, Ph.D.
Michael Rauchman, M.D.
Jeff Scherrer, Ph.D.
Richard DiPaolo, Ph.D., for John Tavis, Ph.D.
Joel Eissenberg, Ph.D., *ex officio*
John Long, D.V.M., *ex officio*
Paul Hauptman, M.D., *ex officio*
Denise Johnson, *ex officio*
William Wold, Ph.D., *ex officio*

Members Not Present:

Terry Egan, Ph.D.
Raymond Tait, Ph.D., *ex officio*

Guest:

Willis Samson, 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, September 28, 2016, in the Doisy Research Center, 9th Floor Conference Room.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the August 24, 2016 meeting were approved as submitted.

1. SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM RECRUITMENT

Dr. Rick Samson, director, Graduate Programs in the Biomedical Sciences, led a discussion regarding the establishment of a summer research program in the four basic science departments. Currently, there is one program run by the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Dr. Samson reported that he had accumulated data from several universities on summer programs. To summarize:

1. Universities committed to such a program spend approximately \$6,000 per student each summer.
2. The number of students in each program varies depending upon the size of the institution and the available resources.

3. Most polled, reported that they were satisfied with the outcomes in terms of applications from the program attendees to their Ph.D. and/or M.D./Ph.D. programs.
4. A conservative estimate is that the success rate in terms of recruitment was in most cases 20-25 percent.

Dr. Samson suggested that the RPC members consider three important issues before making a decision on whether or not to expand the current program in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology to include all four departments.

1. How will the program be funded
2. How will it be administered
3. What are the desired outcomes

Dr. Samson further commented that a major key to the success of such a program would be the commitment of the participating faculty. Dr. Di Cera requested feedback from Dr. Wold, chair, Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology, and Dr. Burris, chair, Department of Pharmacology Physiology, and asked for their agreement to financially support such a program.

There was discussion about the broadened scope of the Core Program director's responsibilities with the dissolution of the Graduate School and the assignment of what had been responsibilities handled by the Dean of the Graduate School.

Dr. Di Cera recommended, and Dr. Samson agreed, that the Director of Graduate Programs should report two times per year to the RPC, and that the RPC chair should communicate to the dean on issues related to the Graduate Programs.

Follow-up action: Dr. Di Cera reported that he spoke to the Executive Committee of the Faculty about the directors of the Graduate Programs in the Biomedical Sciences and the M.D./Ph.D. Program reporting to the Research Planning Committee. The chairs will provide feedback at the next Executive Committee of the Faculty meeting.

2. SOM PRESIDENT'S RESEARCH FUND CYCLE 14

Dr. Di Cera reported that the School of Medicine will have a budget of \$400K for the FY 2017 President's Research Fund. It was agreed at the August RPC meeting, that the School of Medicine will have one cycle in January 2017.

3. Research Administration Announcements

Joel Eissenberg, Ph.D., associate dean for research, proposed a revision to the PRF guidelines that would require PRF recipients to present specific aims for a future grant proposal emerging from their PRF award to a selected group of faculty. The PRC discussed the proposal and expressed various opinions.

Paul Hauptman, assistant dean of Clinical – Translational Research, reported that the second annual interdisciplinary collaborative research initiative on the Health Sciences Center campus will take place on November 7, 2016, in the Allied Health Professions Building multi-purpose room, from 5 pm to 7pm. Faculty are encouraged to attend.

Another round of seed grant award applications will be announced at that time.
Additionally, the current status of clinical trials research was discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Johnson
Director, Planning and Operations