

Research Planning Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 23, 2020
2:30 p.m.
Zoom Video Conference
Minutes

Members Present:

David Ford, Ph.D., chairperson
Enrico Di Cera, M.D.
Rich DiPaolo, Ph.D.
Noah Hillman, M.D.
Denise Johnson, ex officio
Oleg Kisselev, Ph.D., ex officio
Christine Jacobs, M.D.
Ravi Nayak, M.D.
Ken Olliff, D.Min., MBA, ex officio
Ratna Ray, Ph.D.
Daniela Salvemini, Ph.D.
Jeff Teckman, M.D.
John Walker, Ph.D.
William Wold, Ph.D.

Members Not Present:

Daniel Hoft, M.D., Ph.D.
John Long, D.V.M., ex officio

Guests

Matthew Christian
Michael Lewis, Ph.D.
Robert Willmott, M.D.

1. The Minutes of the June 24, 2020 meeting were approved as submitted

2. Office of the Provost

At the invitation of Ken Olliff, Michael Lewis, Ph.D., interim provost and the University's chief academic officer, has been asked to speak to all the research councils on a project he has initiated to define scholarly excellence. Ken Olliff and Michelle Sabick, Ph.D., dean, Parks College, have been charged with leading this project.

Matthew Christian presented benchmarking tools for evaluating success and excellence. A copy of his presentation is available in the Office of Planning and Operations. Dr. Lewis asked that the presentation be shared with faculty.

2. Research Labs Websites

Rajeev Aurora, Ph.D., Department of Molecular Microbiology & Immunology, updated the Committee on his efforts to improve the websites for research faculty. The information on the current websites is obsolete and out of date. He has had several conversations with representatives from Marcom (Marketing and Communications division) who agreed that the sites need updating and offered to

give the faculty more input into the website design and agreed to pay to update our websites.

Dr. Ford announced that the RPC website is currently under revision and should be completed soon

Action Item: The chairs of the departments of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology, Pharmacology and Physiology, and Pathology should select a member of their department to work with Dr. Aurora and Marcom to create a new template. The Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology will continue to use their current website.

3. Core Facilities Updates

Dr. Ford reported that the dean has requested that the RPC review the core facilities (Small Animal Imaging Facility, Research Microscopy and Histology Core, and the Flow Cytometry Research Core) to determine their value. The directors of these cores will be asked to present financials, utilization and value to the School of Medicine at an upcoming RPC meeting.

4. Vice Dean, SOM Research, Updates

Enrico Di Cera, M.D., reported that he is waiting on the final expenditure report for FY 2020. The preliminary report shows that the number of NIH funded faculty is trending down, especially in the clinical departments. The majority of our NIH funded faculty are senior faculty.

5. OVPR Updates

Ken Olliff reminded the RPC that the conversation between relevant medical school researchers and Skip Virgin, M.D., Ph.D., concerning research intersections with Vir Biotechnology has not yet occurred. Ken will contact Skip and his colleague, Steven Rice, to determine if it is still useful to organize a conversation in the next weeks.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Johnson
Director, Planning and Operations