

Research Planning Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 16, 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.
Daniel Hoft, M.D., Ph.D.
Denise Johnson, ex officio
Oleg Kisselev, Ph.D., ex officio
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:

Tammy Burton, CPA, ex officio
Noah Hillman, M.D.
Christine Jacobs, M.D.
Ravi Nayak, M.D.
John Long, D.V.M., ex officio

Guests

Daniel Hawiger, M.D., Ph.D.
Robert Wilmott, M.D.

1. The Minutes of the November 25, 2020 meeting were approved as submitted

2. Flow Cytometry Core Facility

Daniel Hawiger, M.D., Ph.D., core director, provided a thorough report on the Flow Cytometry Core Facility (FCC). The FCC has six instruments, one of which is dedicated to BSL3 work. The facility has a large workload with at least two instruments running daily by each of its two operators. Dr. Hawiger does not receive compensation for his services to the FCC. The cost to SLU investigators is similar to that at other institutions, such as Washington University. Several RPC members commented that due to the exceptional operators, the instrumentation and services provided, the FCC is better than most institutions including Washington University. Over 45 million dollars in grants (not including grant revenue from the Vaccine Center) over the past five years have been dependent on the FCC. The costs of the Core to the SOM runs from \$90,000 to \$220,000 per year to cover operating costs, service contracts, repairs and operator salaries. User cost increases to help offset the operating costs. This FCC is considered critical to future recruitment and usage is expected to increase as new researchers are hired.

The current number of instruments in the facility is adequate, but in the next two to three years, one instrument will need to be replaced. The RPC recommended that the facility begin an immediate aggressive approach to secure a NIH instrumentation grant to purchase the replacement. With its strong NIH supported user group and historic excellent use of the facility, Dr. Hawiger thinks it likely that the FCC should be successful in acquiring an instrumentation grant. A copy of Dr. Hawiger's presentation is available in the Office of Planning and Operations.

Action Item: Dr. Ford to write a summary for the dean with recommendation for continued support for the FCC.

3. Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) Updates

Jasmin Patel, assistant vice president, OVPR, updated the RPC on the Research Institute Fellow process. Ken Olliff collected information from all the research councils and assembled a group to define the review process from the feedback he received. This information will be shared with the RPC and other research councils.

The Call for Big Ideas proposals are due February 28, 2021.

A new internal award opportunity, the Research Innovation Fund, was created to identify high potential research innovations and technologies, and dramatically accelerate the timeline for commercialization. This program will provide flexible funding of up to \$50,000. Awardees will also receive the full support of the Research Innovation Group, including access to the SLU Start I-Corps program, SLU Innovation Mentor Teams, and access to the Cortex Innovation Community. Applications are due via the Openwater portal by 11:59 pm on February 28, 2021.

4. Other Business

- Dr. Ford reported on the feedback he received on the Research Growth Fund document (distributed with meeting agenda) that was distributed to faculty for input. It was recommended that the proposal be limited to two pages. The RPC agreed that proposals be submitted and reviewed in the Openwater portal.

Action Item: Dr. Ford to draft a review process for the RPC to approve.

- Dr. Ford reminded the Committee that Denise Johnson will be requesting reviewers for the PRF applications at the end of January.
- Regarding the RPC's input into the capital request budget, Dr. Ford stated that the RPC needs to have a candid discussion on the research strengths of the School of Medicine and where it needs to invest capital funds.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Johnson
Director, Planning and Operations