

Research Planning Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 28, 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.
Daniel Hoft, M.D., Ph.D.
Denise Johnson, ex officio
Oleg Kisselev, Ph.D., ex officio
Christine Jacobs, M.D.
John Long, D.V.M., 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:

Ravi Nayak, M.D.

Guests

Helen Lach, Ph.D.
Danny Willis, DNS, RN
Karoly Toth, D.V.M.
Robert Wilmott, M.D.

1. The Minutes of the September 23, 2020 meeting were approved as submitted

2. School of Nursing Research

At the request of Dr. Ford, Dean Danny Willis, DNS, RN, and Helen Lach, Ph.D., associate dean for research, from the School of Nursing (SON), updated the RPC on research activities in the SON. The SON wants to recruit more faculty and expand its research in palliative care. Dr. Lach shared examples of collaborations the SON has with faculty at SSM Cardinal Glennon Medical Center, throughout the University and in the community. They are very interested in a nurse scientist appointment and furthering collaborations with Cardinal Glennon.

3. Small Animal Imaging Core Facility

Karoly Toth, D.V.M., gave a presentation to the RPC explaining the capabilities, use, and finances of the Small Animal Imaging Core. He reported that the only equipment operated by the Core, an IVIS Spectrum optical imager, is a very capable machine in good repair, but it is becoming obsolete and may not be repairable if it breaks. The machine is underused, probably because of its current location in the ABSL3. Data was presented on the finances of the Core, showing that user charges are enough to

cover the day-to-day operation of the machine. However, the yearly cost (\$20k) of the service contract must be paid from other sources. Presently, MMI covers this expense.

The RPC discussed the sensitivity of the IVIS Spectru, its current location and cost of the service contract. It was suggested that an upgrade/replacement to the IVIS Spectrum should be obtained through a shared instrumentation grant.

4. Vice Dean, SOM Research, Updates

Enrico Di Cera, M.D., presented data on FY 2020 grant expenditures. Total extramural grant expenditures for FY 2020 were in line with FY 2019, notwithstanding the slowdown in research activity due to COVID. The results are extremely positive and confirm a recovery trend started in FY 2016. The recovery needs to be accelerated to regain FY 2005 levels of approximately \$45M/yr. Dr. Di Cera feels that this a realistic goal that should be pursued with high priority through the recruitment of two to three new faculty a year for the next five years. The total number of NIH funded PIs in the SOM continues to decline at a rate of about two per year.

Dean Wilmott updated the RPC on his conversation with President Pestello regarding funding for PI recruitment. He reported that he could work with Tammy Burton and Dr. Di Cera to create three startup packages over the next three years. The School of Medicine does not have a source of funds to do more than that right now. He reported on the status of the early retirement package offer and the funding offer from the Research Institute.

5. Other Business

Dr. Ford reported that:

- A virtual meeting with representatives from Vir Biotechnology is scheduled for November 3, 2020.
- Tracey Baird has updated the RPC website.
- The President's Research Fund deadline is January 16, 2021.

A discussion was held on the money the School of Medicine received from the Research Growth Fund. It was suggested that the Just-In-Time procedure be used as an award mechanism.

Action Item: Dr. Ford will discuss the Just-In-Time procedure with Ken Olliff.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Johnson
Director, Planning and Operations