

Research Planning Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 24, 2021
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.
Christine Jacobs, M.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.
Kim Schiel, M.D.
Jeff Teckman, M.D.
John Walker, Ph.D.
William Wold, Ph.D.

Members Not Present:

Tammy Burton, CPA, ex officio
John Long, D.V.M., ex officio
Ravi Nayak, M.D.

1. **The Minutes of the January 27, 2021 meeting were approved with one correction.** The last sentence in the Research Microscopy and Histology Core update should read: The need for a digital spatial transcriptomics system (GeoMX) was discussed, as well as a light sheet system that could be sought through a S10 small equipment grant.

2. **Named Lectureships**
Dr. Ford raised this issue of the Frontiers in Molecular Medicine lectures being held during the COVID pandemic. After discussing, a motion to restart the Frontiers in Molecular Medicine lecture series via Zoom was approved (12-0) for departments who want to sponsor a lecture.

3. **Clinical Research Strategy Group Update**
Oleg Kisselev, Ph.D., associate dean for clinical research, updated the committee on the Clinical Research Strategy Group (CRSG) that was established in July 2020. The charges of the CRSF are: 1) Broadly review strategic opportunities for growth and identify the roadblocks that currently impede clinical and translational research; and prioritize solutions, investments and required support for clinical trials; and 2) Review and work to implement specific recommendations of the Clinical Trials Task

Force (CTTF), which issued a comprehensive report on the financial, legal, regulatory, and clinical elements of the clinical trials program. Challenges, goals and priorities were discussed. A copy of the presentation is available in the Office of Planning and Operations.

4. GeoMX Microscope System

Dr. Ford reported that Dr. Grant Kolar has requested the RPC's endorsement of the GeoMX microscope system that Dr. Kolar presented at the February RPC meeting. Dr. Kolar provided the following list of potential users: Drs. Salvemini, Yosten, Samson, Ray DiPaolo, Flaveny, Hoft, Teague, Brien, Aurora, Griggs, Baldan, Gonzalo, McCommis, Chakraborty, Farr, Xu and Edwards. The RPC agreed that it is in favor of this purchase, but currently is not in the position to endorse.

Action Item: Denise Johnson to keep a list of capital requests submitted to the RPC for endorsement.

5. SOM Research Growth Fund

David Ford, Ph.D., updated the Committee on the revised Research Growth Fund (RGF) document that he distributed to the RPC for approval on February 25, 2021. Eight members responded with their approval. A motion was made and approved by all members present to approve the RGF document proposed by Dr. Ford. Dr. Ford will add the following statement to the document: *All members of the RPC are welcome to participate in the review of the proposals.*

6. Vice Dean, SOM Research, Updates

Dr. Di Cera provided an update on the action he is taking to address the compensation of faculty who fall below the 25th percentile in the AAMC's faculty salary report. He is working with HR and Medical Center Finance to identify the faculty who fall in this range.

7. OVPR Updates

Ken Olliff updated the Committee on Research Institute's Big Ideas program. The AHEAD Institute is coming to the end of their two-year initial funding and the RI is working with them to apply for a renewal. The RI also launched the Research Innovation Fund, a pilot program to help researchers move projects from the lab to the market place, which will be overseen by a new Innovation Council, made of SLU Trustees, SOM Advisory Board members, and faculty. Ken is also working with Dr. Jacobs on building a research relationship with SSM. The Research Institute's annual report is complete and being distributed.

8. Other Business

- Dr. Ford reported that Dr. Long is waiting on feedback from departments on their interests to engage in the services of Transetyx, the genotyping vendor.
- Dr. Long moved the IVIS from the ABSL 3 suite to the ABSL2 suite.
- Dr. Ford reported Tammy Burton is aware of the problems researchers are experiencing with purchases in Workday, and that she is working on a solution.

- Dr. DiPaolo reported that there are reagents for investigators to perform single cell RNA sequencing available in the Genomics Core and that Dr. Michelle Pheron has been trained to build bar-coded libraries for single cell RNA sequencing. The Core is considering requests to use the reagents from PIs at no cost for reagents, although there are costs associated with labor and sequencing.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Johnson
Director, Planning and Operations