

Research Advisory Council

Meeting Agenda for October 7, 2019 Meeting

(3.30 p.m. Brookside Room, Administrative Center)

Attendees Present: Jeff Price, Chris Liu, Nathan Mauck, Mary Walker, Brenda Dingley, Len Dobens, Eric Camburn, Beth Vonnahme, Jennifer Allsworth, Amanda Emerson, Simon Friedman, Michael Frisch, Lani Hamilton, Sarah Dallas, Paula Monaghan Nichols, Mark Nichols.

1. Approval of minutes from September 2019 meeting

The minutes were approved with no changes

2. Introduction of continuing and newly appointed members

Eric Camburn - School of Education

Lani Hamilton – Conservatory

Nathan Mauck – Bloch School

We still need to recruit 2 more members- one from Faculty Senate and one from the School of Arts and Sciences.

3. Discussion of proposed changes to the Standard Operating Procedures for the Research Advisory Council and a Vote to approve any changes.

Paula Nichols moved to accept changes that were proposed in the operating procedures. These changes included having the members serve 3 year staggered terms, with one third of the membership rotating off annually. Also, if a member steps off the council before their 3 year term is ended, the Dean of their Academic Unit will appoint a replacement faculty member to sit on the Council until the term is served out. The term for the Chair was also cut to a 1 year term, following which the Vice Chair will serve. The Council Voted to approve the Changes.

4. Election of a new Vice Chair for the Research Advisory Council

John Kevern was nominated. There were no other nominations. An anonymous ballot was taken of the voting members of the committee. The committee voted unanimously in support of John Kevern as the new vice chair.

5. Comments from Vice Chancellor for Research Yusheng Liu

VCR Liu emphasized the importance of the Council to assist him in making decisions regarding research at UMKC. Currently he has 3 initiatives where he needs the help of the committee.

First Initiative— University research enterprise needs a concrete strategic plan. It needs to focus on research enterprise (no need to focus on ORS operations). It should be a team effort and needs to be conclusive. VCR Liu provided examples of strategic plans

from other institutions. We need to identify areas of strength on the UMKC campus. Scopus, Web of Science and Dimensions can be used to generate activity reports. The plan needs to include how we can better use the Core facilities, how we can involve non STEM faculty with scholarly activity/research. It should also include approaches to make more funding available and there should be a strategy for investment, etc. The ORS does not currently get any of the indirects and this needs to be addressed so that funds can be identified to enhance the research enterprise. Dr. Liu provided the Council with examples of research strategy documents from other schools.

Jeff Price indicated that he would be willing to head a subcommittee to help write this type of strategic plan.

There was some discussion as council members pointed out that UMKC recently developed a strategic plan that included research and Dr. Liu had previously indicated that he thought it was a good plan. He clarified that the current plan has no detail about how to achieve the goals outlined in the strategic plan. He would like the assistance of the RAC to add detail on how to achieve the goals of the plans. We also need to strategize on how UMKC can generate additional funds from donors, etc. to support research enterprise.

There was discussion about the value of databases in putting together the plan – it misses some faculty because of their affiliations, salary source, etc. and we need to be wary of counting publications purely by number of publications rather than considering the quality (e.g. certain journals are considered as higher impact compared to others)

Brenda Dingley indicated that Academic analytics might be able to help if combined with other databases. Paula suggested that the Schools might keep more accurate records of their funded investigators, etc., so that might be a better source of data compared to some of the more centralized databases.

It was noted by council members that an attractive feature of the research strategy documents from other schools was that they reported on the pay-off from research investments. We would like to get this information from UMKC. This could be used as leverage to raise funds to support more pilot projects.

VCR Liu commented that based on the 2017 data reported to Federal agencies UMKC had \$25 million of research expenditures. 50% was Federal. 20-30% was from institutional sources. Local business, industry investment was a low percentage.

VCR Liu indicated that a comparison of FY20 with FY19 showed that last year – 110 proposals were submitted (64 received). This year 120 proposals were submitted (90 awarded). This year, we have already received \$40 million.

Second initiative – F&A rate. Last year UMKC got \$34 million in grant funding. Total “effective” indirects probably amount to about 17% of this, because not all grants have F&A associated with them. VCR Liu wants us to compare UMKC to peer universities to

compare how the F&A is distributed at other institutions as a benchmark and also compare to the other 3 schools in the system.

Third Initiative – VCR Liu is asking for the RAC to assist him with revising the intramural funding for excellence (FFE) program. He thinks the funds should be used more for seed money and to promote collaborative initiatives. We may need to consider restricting established faculty members from applying. Should the funds be restricted to tenure track versus non tenure track faculty, etc?. We need to make sure that the impact of the funds is high. Since FFE applications have already been submitted for this academic year, the RAC will not make changes to the funding formula for this year but will consider changes after awards are made this year.

There was some discussion with Council Members regarding seeking additional funding sources to increase the amount of funds available for seed grants, etc. In the past we have been told not to reach out directly to donors – we have to go through the UMKC foundation. We may be losing opportunities to raise private funds and there is a sense that research has never been a priority of the foundation.

It was decided that the Council will ask the new Foundation Director to come to our Council meeting to discuss how research funding can be incorporated into the fund raising activities of the foundation.

6. Additional discussion of the proposed UMKC core facilities. What facilities should be included and how should cost recovery for UMKC expenses be accomplished?

Jeff Price is putting together information on the research cores with a goal of obtaining central support for them.

The annual running budget for UMKC is about \$350M. There should be some way to identify some funds to support research cores.

7. Discussion of the upcoming reviews of Faculty Funding for Excellence awards

It was decided to schedule a lunch meeting of the review panel to settle on the review assignments, the scoring rubric and the conflict of interest policy.

8. The RAC needs to specify a couple of initial priorities to which we can direct our attention now.

Discussion was brief as time was limited. Jeff Price suggested focusing on the goal of doubling extramural research grants and increasing number of grant proposals submitted.

There was some discussion about whether UMKC is still eligible AREA R15 grants. Researchers in the School of Dentistry have been determined to be ineligible based on >\$6M research awards by UMKC. This may not apply to the School of Biological Sciences. The new NIH guidelines for 2019 split the R15's into Academic Research

Enhancement Awards (AREA) for undergraduate focused institutions and Research Enhancement Award Program (REAP) for Health Professional Schools and Graduate Schools. This may be why the eligibility for SBS and SOD are different. Further clarification may be needed.

9. Any other business

Schedule for Spring Semester – do we want to schedule a meeting in January?–

The Council decided to schedule the January meeting for January 13th due to the Holiday break.

10. Adjourn