

RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF APRIL 7, 2014 MEETING

I. Time, Location and Attendance:

- 3:00PM, Plaza Room at Administrative Center
- RAC members present: Lawrence Dreyfus, Denis Medeiros, Anthony Caruso, Jenny Lundgren, Virginia Blanton, Richard Arend, Reza Derakhshani, Robert Groene, Brenda Dingley, Anil Kumar, Kathleen Kilway, Maureen Hannoun, Lorelei Sells, Chris Winders, James Brazeal, Bob Simmons, Alex Binder, and Leslie Burgess. Absent: Provost Gail Hackett, Marilyn Yoder, Mark Johnson, Jacob Marszalek, Chris Holman, Pat Kelly, and John Wang.

II. Funding for Excellence

- Dr. Dreyfus explained that the FFE subcommittee will finalize the criteria for reward in an upcoming final meeting session. PDF fillable forms will be constructed for applicants. His goal is to have it complete by the end of May in order for the program to be open to applicants for fall. He addressed concerns regarding the use of F&A for funding campus scholarship and it was noted that there isn't a formal university policy. It was discussed that the use of RIFF varies by unit across campus, and is communicated and regulated by department heads to faculty. Maureen Hannoun explained that there aren't policies or restrictions of its use from the Office of Research Services and the FFE funds would not be examined in an external audit. Kathleen Kilway observed that this would be helpful to know across campus and Virginia Blanton noted that establishing a formal documentation or statement would be beneficial. It was agreed that overall clarity among units regarding F&A will be important in launching the FFE program.

III. Strategic Plan for Research

- Dr. Dreyfus described the background of the developing need for establishing a Strategic Plan for Research at UMKC. Working with fellow research deans, he will formulate the plan, with a central topic being the launching of a center for research, an idea which stemmed from the former concept of the Clinical/Translational Research Center. He offered a presentation to the council which analyzed the past and present state of research on campus through data on grant funding and expenditures, along with examining where UMKC could grow in the future. Dr. Dreyfus offered possible ideas for the mission, vision, and themes of the Strategic Plan. The presentation will be distributed to RAC members for review.
- Follow-up discussion emphasized faculty workload considerations in regard to performing research during a time of limited budgets and resources. Several members shared views that reduced teaching loads could allow for an increase in

research proposals and collaborations. Bob Simmons noted that increased research space and infrastructure should be considered as well and would help with the attraction and retention of high-performing research faculty on campus. Dennis Medeiros explained that hiring and promoting leadership who have strong experience and emphasis on research also plays a major role in leading the faculty of a unit. Dr. Dreyfus concluded that the plan should help find ways of moving forward the best under the current budget climate. It is important to reward those who are achieving great research and to help those who aren't get there. Dr. Dreyfus encouraged RAC members to email him with additional questions, comments, and ideas.

IV. IT Infrastructure for Research (fact gathering)

- Dr. Dreyfus explained that campus-wide discussion on the topic has usually focused on storage/archival issues, as well as difficulties with firewall barriers. He asked council members to consider and share any issues that impact their departments, with the goal of creating a well-articulated statement of needs. Reza Derakhshani pointed out that this area is a key concern for the School of Computing and Engineering, and he considered whether it would be beneficial for them to have an independent IT and network that could better serve their needs. Dr. Dreyfus said he could have a representative from the department attend the upcoming meeting with Mary Lou Hines Fritts in which the topic will be discussed. The issue of shared resources also arose, questioning whether a centralized IT system from Columbia would be favorable. Dr. Dreyfus noted that such a system could have negative repercussions with departments such as Tech Transfer. Each campus of the UM System has a variety of unique needs that would be challenging to meet with a centralized system. The major points of concern that will be focused on are firewall and data transfer issues. Dr. Dreyfus will send an email reminder for feedback on the topic soon.

V. IDIC Grant Submission Deadline

- Dr. Dreyfus will send out an announcement to clarify review criteria, particularly regarding the need for significant issues of national importance. The submission deadline is June 2nd and details can be found through the IDIC link on the Office of Research Service's website at <http://ors.umkc.edu/pre-award/funding-opportunities>