

# RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

### I. Time, Location and Attendance

- 3:00PM, Plaza Room at Administrative Center
- RAC members present: Lawrence Dreyfus, Tony Caruso, Chris Winders, Russell Melchert, Chris Holman, Jenny Lundgren, Carolyn Thompson, Reza Derakhshani, Virginia Blanton, Brenda Dingley, Mark Johnson, Kathleen Kilway, Divya Kamath, and Leslie Burgess.

### II. Welcome

- Dr. Dreyfus welcomed the council, noting there were several new members in attendance. Members introduced themselves and there was discussion regarding membership elections based on inquiry from the Faculty Senate. Dr. Dreyfus explained that representatives could be elected by unit as opposed to appointed. It was decided that this would be good practice for the next term and will be added to the RAC charge.

### III. Explore Vol 2

- *Explore vol 2* was distributed to members with Dr. Dreyfus saying he was really pleased with second issue. He hopes for the third edition to come out this spring and he is currently working with Communications on a timeline. He said he welcomes story recommendations from RAC members and hopes to highlight more from the Humanities and Social Sciences. An online version can be found at <http://info.umkc.edu/research/>

### IV. Funding for Excellence

- Dr. Dreyfus explained that the deadline for submissions for the new grant program was August 28th. He provided data regarding the submissions, noting there were with 46 applicants from 11 academic units and 26 departments. He said a decision will be made by early October, with reviewers from each discipline coming together for the final decision. The scoring matrix for criteria was distributed to RAC members.
- Dr. Dreyfus welcomed RAC members to share their thoughts about the FFE next year, noting that one addition will be an automatic email confirmation for applicants. He brought up the option of a different timeline, with having the decision made in spring and money allotted in summer or fall. Jenny Lundgren asked what the downside would be to pushing the deadline to later in fall, maybe October or November, as it would give applicants, particularly junior faculty, more time to plan. Mark Johnson noted that a different timeline might impact budget. Dr. Dreyfus closed the discussion with the acknowledgment that it is hoped that in the future the money may be matched by a different source, such as Indirect Costs or the Provost's Office.

### V. 2015 FastTrack Awardees

- Dr. Dreyfus explained that FastTrack is a UM System funding program with the focus on intellectual property and commercialization. He pointed out that UMKC has had several faculty win from the \$500,000 pot and he is currently working with Communications to spotlight this year's winners. Travis Fields & John Kevern, School of Computing and

Engineering, were awarded \$49,885 for “*Validation of an Unmanned Vehicle Bridge Inspection System*”. Peter Koulen, School of Medicine, won \$50,000 for “*Detection of Early Stage Alzheimer’s*”. And \$50,000 was awarded to Tom Menees & Gerald Wyckoff, School of Biological Sciences, for “*Development of Novel HIV Therapies*”.

**VI. Eric Anderson, MBA, JD, Director, Office of Research Commercialization**

- Dr. Dreyfus announced that Eric Anderson has accepted the position of Director of the Office of Technology Commercialization in replacement of James Brazeal. He is set to start on Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>. The Office of Research Services will plan a meet-and-greet for the faculty.

**VII. Broader Impact Networks Presentation and Workshop (September 22, Administrative Center)**

- Dr. Dreyfus invited Susan Renoe from Columbia, Director of the Broader Impacts Network, to campus to meet with faculty on Tuesday, September 22nd. She will provide information on how her office can be of service in crafting better BI Statements for NSF applications. The meeting will be held from 2-3:30pm in the Plaza Room of the Administrative Center. RAC members are encouraged to spread word about the visit to faculty. She will also host a training workshop in Columbia on October 22nd and 23rd. More information can be found about BIN at <http://broaderimpacts.missouri.edu/>

**VIII. Center for Health Insights – KCALSI Regional Bioinformatics Symposium (Thursday and Friday, October 15-16, Student Union)**

- The first annual Midwest Bioinformatics Conference will be held on Volker campus in October and Dr. Dreyfus said he plans to distribute a campus-wide announcement through departments soon. He said it will be two days and features terrific keynote speakers, with two great keynote speakers. Information can be found at <http://www.kclifesciences.org/events/first-annual-midwest-bioinformatics-conference/>

**IX. Faculty Research Symposium (Friday, December 11, 2015, Student Union)**

- Dr. Dreyfus said that planning is underway for the second annual Research Symposium which will be held on the last day of the academic year, December 11th. This year’s event will have formal poster session times the morning and afternoon with a midday session featuring speakers. More information will be available as planning is solidified, with a save-the-date going out to departments soon.

**X. Planned Future Meeting Topics**

- Research Strategic Plan – Dr. Dreyfus would like to examine and rework the plan that was drafted last year.
- ORS Budget – This will provide a snapshot of how research is funded on campus.
- Investing in Research at UMKC - How do we find resources? How can we better manage investments?
- Technology Commercialization – Dr. Dreyfus noted this office is only five years old and has significantly grown commercialization on campus. Reza Derakhshani said that reaching out to local investors is a great key to developing this area.

**XI. Discussion Items:**

- Agenda Items for future meetings
  - Virginia Blanton asked if there is an archive of model grant proposals, as it would be great to have a secure site where people could have access to see winning applications looked like. Dr. Dreyfus said he had come across something similar on MU's research site that he will check on that. Tony Caruso noted that there is an option on PeopleSoft for investigator to select whether they will provide their applications to the public.
- Faculty Research Symposium