

RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF NOV 6, 2013 MEETING

I. Time, Location and Attendance:

- 3:00PM, Plaza Room at Administrative Center
- **RAC members present:** Vice Chancellor Lawrence Dreyfus, Maureen Hannoun, Anthony Caruso, Jenny Lundgren, Virginia Blanton, Marilyn Yoder, Richard Arend, Reza Derakhshani, Robert Groene, Mark Johnson, Brenda Dingley, Cynthia Russell (sitting in for Patricia Kelly), Anil Kumar, Kathleen Kilway, Chris Winders, Bob Simmons, and Leslie Burgess.
Absent: Provost Gail Hackett, Jacob Marszalek, Chris Holman, Patricia Kelly, John Wang, Lorelei Sells, and Denis Medeiros.

II. Welcome and Introduction

- Dr. Dreyfus welcomed the council and introduced himself. Members introduced themselves as well, providing information about their department and role at UMKC.
- Dr. Dreyfus then discussed the purpose of the Research Advisory Council, as well as the history that led to the need for its presence on campus.

III. Advisory Council Charge

- Dr. Dreyfus and members first addressed the draft structure and charge of the council, beginning with the staggered term of membership assignment. There is the option of doing a 2 or 3 year staggered term. There was an agreement on this notion and it will be dealt with at the next meeting.
- Dr. Dreyfus described the overall proposed charge for the council, to serve as an advisory group to the Provost and the Chancellor while promoting the University's advancement in research, scholarship, and sponsored programs.
- Specific functions of the council were discussed as listed on the draft:
 1. Serving as the primary committee engaged in discussions on research/research operations, sponsored programs and scholarship; and, in an advisory role to the Administration on issues pertaining to these matters.
 2. Become familiar with the operations of the Office of Research Services, including budget and staffing, and disseminate useful information to the faculty and staff.
 3. Aid the Faculty Senate in the discussion of matters pertaining to research
 4. Propose and develop strategies aimed at increasing research opportunities and funding at UMKC.
 5. Review research administration policies and procedures in an attempt to improve administrative efficiencies, streamline grant submissions, and removal of administrative barriers to research at UMKC.
 6. Support student research activities (undergraduate and graduate)

7. Provide a reviewer pool for internal competitive funding opportunities
 8. Development of policies impacting the research enterprise (i.e. space utilization, research investment, campus funding opportunities, etc.)
 9. Strategic planning development and implementation
 10. Oversight of F&A distribution
- In regards to the functions, the council will serve as the primary committee engaged in discussions on research/research operations, sponsored programs and scholarship, while acting in an advisory role to the Chancellor and Provost on these matters. Dr. Dreyfus indicated that one of the goals of the RAC meetings would be to familiarize the members with the Office of Research Services operations, as well as the overall management and administration of research on our campus. He noted that the council would also assist the Faculty Senate on matters regarding research. The council will deliberate on the goals and strategies for funding and increasing research activity on campus. The review, improvement, and management of research and sponsored programs activities will be another function of the council, as well as addressing student research activities. After covering the functions, Dr. Dreyfus indicated that there are areas that can be tightened up in the document and that the draft charge was open for discussion and suggestions for modification.
 - Members raised questions regarding the drafted functions. Richard Arend discussed how policies could be directed toward rewarding research, and it was noted that guidelines and procedures currently vary by academic unit and department; and perhaps moreover that these issues should arise from the faculty within each academic unit. They are overseen by the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs (Dean Denis Medeiros)
 - The question was asked regarding how the Research Advisory Council relates to the Life and Sciences Advisory Council. Dr. Dreyfus discussed the current restructuring and that now the Deans of the life and health sciences units, which formerly met *ad hoc* on research- and collaborative academic program-related issues, now comprise the "*Life and Health Science Advisory Council*".
 - The newly formed Research Advisory Council will serve in an advisory role to the Chancellor and Provost on matters pertaining to research, sponsored programs and scholarship. Associate Vice Chancellor Simmons noted that this fills a current void in the University as far as having a faculty committee focused on addressing important issues related to research.
 - Kathleen Kilway raised a question regarding the specific expectations of the council regarding the outcomes of research oversight (i.e. "is the expectation that we will double our research expenditures in a period of time, etc.") and will the group be held accountable for such expectations? Dr. Dreyfus said that these are matters of strategic planning, which will be taken up by the Council, but that preconceived expectations are not part of that planning process. The Council will be strategic plan oriented regarding expectations and research outcomes, with a priority being to address the needs of our researchers in helping to facilitate their success.

- It was discussed that a funding forecast for the coming year(s) would be helpful. Dr. Dreyfus commented that much of what is reported by our federal funding agencies vis-à-vis research policy, updates and forecasts are currently reported to the campus through the ORS ListServ (<http://ors.umkc.edu/about/ors-listserv>) and recommended that members sign up if they already are not included in the mailings.
- Richard Arend raised the point that perhaps the RAC should be the body that regulates or standardizes the policies relating to rewards for research activity and cited examples of inequities regarding the value assigned to research activity by different academic units. He also raised the issue for discussion that this group should be responsible for addressing issues related to responsible conduct of research. Dr. Dreyfus noted that issues of research rewards are typically articulated in policies developed by the academic units using the CRR as a guide and that the faculty within the units develops these policies. Also questions or cases involving matters of research integrity and breaches in ethical standards are brought before the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs but will then engage with the V.C. for Research if the matter is indeed a research-related issue. Overall, federal guidelines are followed and the Research Compliance Office, led by council member Chris Winders, assists in the navigation of these regulations. Dr. Dreyfus noted the NIH has a code of conduct that UMKC is obligated to follow. The discussion concluded that the Research Advisory Council would be the body to point to the existing policies on campus and to look at gaps among departments in regulations where they may exist. The council discussed the need to make the policies regarding ethics clear and explicit.
- Dr. Dreyfus concluded the discussion by asking council members to email any recommended changes they would like to see in the draft charge. A monthly meeting schedule will be decided in the near future.

IV. F&A Redistribution Presentation

- Dr. Dreyfus presented to the council an overview of the F&A (Facilities & Administrative, also known as Indirect Costs) recovery and redistribution at UMKC. Discussion arose regarding the redistribution phase-in proposal, specifically in how it will affect individual departments on campus. Dr. Johnson suggested that although he agreed in principle with the notion of using campus F&A to support research initiatives, that it would be important to investigate how the units are currently using their F&A allocation to support research. He also commented that many of the things that could be done centrally with F&A are already being done in his own academic unit (School of Dentistry). And that we need to make sure that we do not harm the units by implementing a policy such as this that would take resources away from units already engaged in supporting research. It was agreed that the council should investigate how the units are presently utilizing their F&A while also looking at how other university models are working. The ORS will begin gathering data from the academic units on how F&A was spent last

year. It was noted that the university does not have an overall policy regarding how F&A money is spent and it would be helpful to have more structure regarding this. It was concluded that the Research Advisory Council should be the oversight group regarding how F&A is spent.

- It was suggested that the FAC be provided data on how the portion of F&A provided to the ORS is spent. Dr. Dreyfus said that the next meeting of this group would include a complete overview of the ORS budget.
- Dr. Dreyfus went through a number of objections to the plan that were voiced at various faculty and committee discussions last spring (noted in the PowerPoint Presentation). He commented that there was nothing decided regarding the final percentage of F&A proposed to go the units after an appropriate phase-in (seven years was discussed). He noted that a plan could be developed based on a set amount of money coming off the top of the total F&A prior to distribution. A hybrid model was also suggested where a percentage coming from the units would be topped out at a specific dollar amount.
- It was also noted in the discussion that, although Vice Chancellor Dreyfus presented a rational mechanism to raise the resources required to implement research investment, a better approach might be to first identify which programs will provide the best “bang for the buck” in leveraging additional research dollars, develop a price tag for those initiatives, then implement the plan that best supports these efforts. There was a general agreement with this approach and Dr. Dreyfus stated that he would circulate a list of potential uses, as discussed at previous faculty meetings (Faculty Research Grant program, matching funds for grants, core facility investment, faculty start-ups, etc.,) with a rating scale attached.
- This concluded the discussion due to time. Information items to be presented and their explanation are as follows:

Information Items

- Interdisciplinary – Intercampus (IDIC) Grants Program
 - Funding has been approved at the UM System level for a second round of the IDIC funding program. The Submission date will be in March 2014. Application review in April and funding provided during summer of 2014. The ORS budgeted resources for another round anticipating it would be approved at the System level. Total funding is \$1M; each PI of a multi-investigator team can receive up to \$25K.
- Fast Track Funding Mechanism
 - Funds for another round of Fast Track, the commercialization acceleration program (UM System), was approved. Applications will be solicited some time in January 2014.
- UMRB Submission Data

- For the most recent round of UMRB Submissions, the 4 campuses submitted the following number of application: UM-C, 70; UMKC, 28; MU_S&T, 19; UMSL, 12
- FY13 Application Submission Data
 - Vice Chancellor Dreyfus has provided each of your Deans and Associate Deans for Research with a spreadsheet listing the past 5-years of grant submissions from each of your Schools/Departments/Faculty for use in Departmental planning and activity reporting. Award data appears in the Annual Report, posted on the ORS web site.
- OMB-Circular 81 (Maureen Hannoun)
 - A new Federal Office of Management and Budget Circular that will govern financial and operating practices for entities receiving federal funding is soon to be released, the, so called, OMB A-81 (8 circulars condensed into 1) has undergone public comment and should soon be released for use. There are some new features regarding allowable expenditures on federal grants including the purchase of computers and costs associated with administrative support. The ORS will provide more information and training, as details of circular A-81 are made available.
- FY13 Annual Report
 - The FY2013 Annual Report is soon to be completed. We expect that it will be posted on the ORS website in early December.