

**RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2016 MEETING**

**I. Time, Location and Attendance**

- 3:30PM, Plaza Room at Administrative Center
- RAC members present: Lawrence Dreyfus, Tony Caruso, Chris Winders, Maureen Hannoun, Kathleen Kilway, Mary Walker, Mark Johnson, Paula Monaghan-Nichols, Mark Nichols, Ann Cary, Russell Melchert, Anil Kumar, Robert Groene, Chris Holman, Brenda Dingley, and Leslie Burgess.

**II. Annual Report**

- Members received copies of the 2016 ORS Annual Report. Dr. Dreyfus noted that this, and past annual reports, can be found online in the lower left corner of the ORS homepage <http://ors.umkc.edu/>.

**III. Explore Volume 3**

- The latest issue of Explore research magazine was distributed to members. An online version can be found at <http://info.umkc.edu/research/>.

**IV. ORS Newsletter**

- Dr. Dreyfus explained that ORS will begin distributing an electronic newsletter with the goals of informing the campus about the functions of the office along with providing informative pieces covering topics such as research news, new awards, staff spotlights, and policy changes. The first edition of the newsletter will be distributed in early 2017 and to be circulated quarterly.

**V. Save the Date(s)**

- Dr. Dreyfus reminded members of the upcoming Faculty Research Symposium on December 9th as well as the 2nd Annual Midwest Bioinformatics Conference, which will be held April 13th and 14th, 2017.

**VI. Cerner HealthFacts Boot Camp**

- The boot camp planning is currently underway and is scheduled for spring of 2017. Designed as an instructional symposium, Dr. Dreyfus explained that it will be comprised of a series of lectures for faculty who are interested in using the Cerner HealthFacts data set. Hosted by representatives from Cerner, Children's Mercy, Truman, and UMKC, these how-to lectures will help attendees navigate this valuable research tool. The first cohort will comprise 12-15 faculty members from a number of our academic units, Truman Medical Center and Children's Mercy Hospital.

**VII. Developing a uniform policy on Indirect Cost Recovery (F&A) use within academic units**

- Dr. Dreyfus discussed the overall lack of a policy on F&A, regarding distribution and expenditure. Distribution within units and departments varies across the University as well as the UM System. He said his goal is to create policy statements for defining F&A and to provide structure as to how it can be used. This is intended to clarify the approved use of F&A as well as to provide transparency for its collection, distribution and use.
- Dr. Dreyfus presented a PowerPoint covering various facts, aspects, and issues regarding F&A costs, recovery, and distribution. He explained that Indirect or F&A costs are paid by granting agencies to cover the cost of research infrastructure and may include the costs of electricity to run the building, equipment maintenance, repair, replacement, shared among many researchers, administrative efforts to support research, etc.
- Slides showed that at present, the current UMKC policy is defined solely by distribution, stating that 50% of recovered F&A goes to the unit where the sponsored activity was generated, 40% funds the Office of Research Services (ORS, Compliance, Tech Commercialization, and LARC), and 10% goes to Environmental Health and Safety. The distribution policies vary greatly by academic unit, with percentages going at different rates to Deans, departments, and P.I.'s.
- The presentation then covered policies by other institutions, such as Duke University, University of California-Berkley, and Stephen F. Austin University.
- Dr. Dreyfus concluded that, with feedback from RAC members, he would like to create a policy statement defining F&A, a statement reflecting the Federal government's position on F&A, a policy guideline with examples of how recovered F&A is expected to be used by academic units (pointing out expenses that should be avoided), and an annual report from units receiving F&A on its use. Overall transparency is the goal, as well as providing guidelines for units to use F&A in the most effective way for their programs.

#### **VIII. Creating a UMKC-wide Research Collaboration networking tool ... Breezio platform as an example.**

- Dr. Dreyfus discussed the collaborative possibilities of creating a UMKC-wide research networking tool, showing *Breezio* as an example. Each member creates a profile which covers their areas of research and interests and then groups and connections can form from there. Mark Johnson said he has discussed a similar idea of a virtual consortium within the community.
- Dr. Dreyfus said he will consider inviting a representative from Breezio to meet and discuss setting up a site specifically for UMKC users.