

RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 1, 2016 MEETING

I. Time, Location and Attendance

- 3:00PM, Plaza Room at Administrative Center
- RAC members present: Lawrence Dreyfus, Tony Caruso, Anil Kumar, Jenny Lundgren, James Murowchick, Reza Derakhshani, Eric Anderson, Ann Cary, Anthony Persechini, Provost Barb Bichelmeyer, Bob Groene, Russ Melchert, Brenda Dingley, Chris Holman, Chris Winders, Maureen Hannoun, and Leslie Burgess.

II. Upcoming Grant Award Opportunities

- Dr. Dreyfus explained these and other upcoming deadlines for awards can be found on our website at: <http://ors.umkc.edu/pre-award/funding-opportunities>
 - UMRB: The February 9th deadline is fast approaching and applications need to be submitted by 5pm that day. A handout of the 2015 winners was distributed and Dr. Dreyfus pointed out that UMKC has had a history of success with the UMRB awards, with a 32% average award rate this last round. He said he highly encourages further support amongst faculty leadership for increased submissions.
 - Interdisciplinary – Intercampus Research Program: The 2016 timeline begins on February 1st when competition opens, with proposals due on Monday, May 2nd. Award notification will be Thursday, June 30th. With the focus on collaborations, applicants must represent at least two UM campuses. Dr. Dreyfus said the Office of Research Services is happy to help interested faculty find partnerships on other campuses.
 - Fast-Track – Eric Anderson, Director of Technology Commercialization, explained that his office will be holding a meeting on Tuesday, February 16th to discuss the campus timeline and pitch presentations. It will be in the Gillham Park Room of the Administrative Center from 11:30-12:30pm. Information about Fast-Track can be found at <http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/aa/fundingopps/fasttrack/timeline>

III. Research Compliance Data

- Compliance Director, Chris Winders, presented the most recent IRB metrics, which can be found at <http://ors.umkc.edu/research-compliance-%28iacuc-ibc-irb-rsc%29/institutional-review-board-%28irb%29/irb-metrics>
- He presented slides of the 2015 Turnaround Times, which can be found at <http://ors.umkc.edu/docs/default-source/irb/2015-turn-around.pdf?sfvrsn=2>
- Chris explained that going forward, he will be able to capture more data with the online system.

IV. FY2015 Annual Report Data

- The Office of Research Service's 2015 Annual Report was distributed to members. Online PDF's of this and past reports, can be found on the lower left side of the ORS homepage at <http://ors.umkc.edu/>
- Dr. Dreyfus stated that awards and expenditures are down from last year, but the most alarming data overall is the decreased number of applications for funding.

V. ORS Budget

- Dr. Dreyfus explained that the budget relies heavily on F&A recovery and that as we reach the midpoint of the fiscal year the office has noticed an overall decrease that is unlike years' past. Handouts of the 2016 budget forecast and the F&A Recovery trend were distributed, highlighting this pattern of decline. He said that the current F&A distribution model is that campus receives 50%, ORS 40%, and Environmental Health and Safety 10%.
- The ORS Budget handout displayed various initiatives supported by the office, such as the IDIC, the Funding for Excellence program, and the Kansas City Consortium on Musculoskeletal Diseases, totaling \$417,000. Dr. Dreyfus explained that given the current trends, it will be challenging to continue providing this financial support and that alternative models of F&A distribution are being investigated.
- Dr. Dreyfus said there could also be greater research emphasis in hiring faculty, with continued incentives in lieu of tenure. Tony Caruso said that the ideal remedy would be to increase the proposal hit-rate of faculty overall. Greater support in the review stage to refine proposals is needed. He pointed out the new White Paper program launched by ORS which serves as a beneficial step in the proposal process by allowing researchers to receive preliminary feedback on their potential projects. <http://ors.umkc.edu/pre-award/proposals-and-grants/request-technical-or-non-technical-white-paper-review>
- It was agreed that creating a stronger connection between the needs of federal agencies and the strengths and interests of researchers will create greater success in funding. The group discussed several tactics for achieving connections and Provost Bichelmeyer said that this is a key aspect worth focusing on for growth.
- It was pointed out that campus infrastructure weaknesses aren't conducive to creating and supporting greater research opportunities. It was agreed that equipment and facility needs are evident and important issues in need of addressing.
- Provost Bichelmeyer expressed that the array of programs that UMKC offers makes it uniquely poised to provide interdisciplinary research in many growing fields. The group discussed areas of strength, such as medical informatics, community health, neuroscience and system biology. It was agreed that creating opportunities and connections based on such strengths and the needs of funding sources is critical.
- Dr. Dreyfus concluded that there are short-term strategies for F&A recovery currently being considered for the time being.