RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2017 MEETING

I. **Time, Location and Attendance**
- 3:30PM, Plaza Room at Administrative Center
- RAC members present: Lawrence Dreyfus, Kathleen Kilway, Mark Johnson, Bob Simmons, Ann Cary, Paula Monaghan-Nichols, Mark Nichols, Eric Anderson, Anil Kumar, Chris Holman, Robert Groene, Jeffrey Price Maureen Hannoun, and Leslie Burgess.

II. **Dr. Tim Middelkoop, Ph.D., C.E.M., Director of Research Computing Support and Services, University of Missouri**
- Members introduced themselves to guest speaker, Dr. Tim Middelkoop, who provided a presentation discussing the high performance computing resources and support services available to UM System faculty. The slides are available for viewing on the RAC website at
  http://ors.umkc.edu/office-of-research-services/research-advisory-council
- Members asked Dr. Middelkoop a variety of questions regarding services, from security levels to the pros and cons of owning clusters. He noted five types of computing resources they provide: Secure4 Research Computing Cluster (Level 4 data), RC4 (NSF MRI Experimental Cluster), Lewis (HPC Shared Cluster), Bio (Bio Compute Cluster), and the TC (Teaching Cluster).
- He encouraged members to pass along his information to Deans and faculty and to contact him for further discussion and questions at middelkoopt@missouri.edu

III. **Items for upcoming RAC meetings**
- Dr. Dreyfus asked members if there are any topics they would like to discuss in future meetings. Ann Cary asked his about new models of shared services and the possible changes regarding Pre and Post Award services on campus. Dr. Dreyfus noted that historically, these type of grant administration services were created within some of highly funded units, such as the School of Medicine, School of Dentistry, and School of Biological Sciences, to assist with a lack of central services. The knowledge of staff within different units regarding grants administration varies widely, while the establishment of ORS has given a central home base for the services for all.
- While the billing and receivables are run through ORS, it was noted that several units still have positions devoted to grants administration and the topic of centralizing the services has been discussed. Maureen Hannoun described the difference seen in a budget from the departmental side from the beginning of a project to the research services accountants' views in PeopleSoft, with there being a great lack of detail on line items on everything from effort reporting to equipment. The members agreed that this creates a need for unit shadow systems and with a flow in processing that is inefficient overall.

- It was noted that the implementation of the PeopleSoft system was established four years ago and had been tweaked and changed, but not to a point of fluent effectiveness. Members discussed how this has been an ongoing issue that needs priority and hope that attention can be focused on a UM System level to create a more automated, streamlined, and proficient system.
- Dr. Dreyfus agreed that this area of need deserves deliberation and Mark Johnson asked if ORS would be able to reach out to each unit with a survey to see what they are lacking. Dr. Dreyfus encouraged members to speak to their Deans and fellow faculty and it was agreed that having an overall evaluation of the resources, services, and facilities of each department would be good starting point. Knowing what needs updating along with what is working well would be valuable in assessing new models of services.
- Dr. Dreyfus said he will circulate a survey for members at the next RAC meeting.