

RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2015 MEETING

I. Time, Location and Attendance

- 3:00PM, Plaza Room at Administrative Center
- RAC members present: Lawrence Dreyfus, Cindy Pemberton, Tony Caruso, Jenny Lundgren, Virginia Blanton, Robert Groene, Mark Johnson, LaVerne Berkel, Chris Holman, Brenda Dingley, Pat Kelly, John Wang, Anil Kumar, Lorelei Sells, Maureen Hannoun, Denis Medeiros, Russell Melchert, Ann Cary, and Leslie Burgess.

II. Annual Report

- Copies of the FY 2014 Office of Research Services Annual Report were distributed to members. Dr. Dreyfus noted the images used highlighted this year's Research Symposium and Open House. A digital report, as well as archived years, can be found on the lower left corner of the ORS homepage at <http://ors.umkc.edu/>

III. IACUC 101/301

- Dr. Dreyfus explained that Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee training sessions will be held in Kansas City in June. Lab animal users are encouraged to attend. A web link with detailed information will be sent out via the ORS ListServe.

IV. LARC Management Software

- Dr. Dreyfus updated the council on the purchase of Lab Animal Resource Management Software (LARS) for LARC. Currently, ORS has one component of the software completed to where the IACUC protocols will be processed within the system. He said ORS will be attaining an additional module for LARC management, which will handle purchasing, accounting, and inventory. Training sessions will be offered for applicable users as the system is introduced.

V. Funding For Excellence

- Dr. Dreyfus discussed the inception and launch of the Funding For Excellence program, which will soon be announced to campus via global email. He has recently visited various academic units with Tony Caruso to discuss internal award opportunities, and the feedback on the FFE has been positive with marked anticipation of having an on-campus funding stream.
- He asked the council for feedback regarding the submission timeline, with special consideration to reviewing and awarding funds. He explained that the reviewers for the FFE would, ideally, be RAC members who could then reach out for assistance to outside faculty for specific disciplines as needed. He said he would invite participation from council members via email once the program is initiated on campus. A more detailed plan of review will be discussed once the number of

applicants and breadth of project disciplines is seen. The goal will be a decision within 30 days of submission and then funding to start immediately.

- He asked members if the initial plan with an application deadline of April 15th is too soon, sharing his concern for processing time with the approaching summer months. Anil Kumar stated that this April deadline creates a tight timeframe, particularly for junior faculty investigators, and asked if there could be two or three months before a deadline. Dr. Dreyfus pointed out while this timeframe is short, it would supply funding for summer work, though it could be spaced to where applicants could know in the summer and receive funding for fall. Several council members pointed out the conflict in timing of UMRB applications.
- Pat Kelly noted her prior experience with unorganized distribution of submissions on past review boards, saying this, along with conflicts of interest, should be considered. Dr. Dreyfus agreed that given the possibility of a broad spectrum of applicants, the logistics of reviewing will need careful deliberation.
- It was asked how the eligibility and focus of FFE applicants are different from the UMRB and Dr. Dreyfus said there is a greater emphasis for deliverables to UMKC. He explained that the awards would ideally fund projects that spotlight excellence for the University, whether that is through research findings or an event, such as a lecture series or art exhibit. He said it is generally more inclusive for applicants than the UMRB, not exclusive.
- In examining the FFE policies and guidelines, members pointed out areas where changes should be made. LaVerne Berkel noted that the term “investigators” is limiting for those outside of traditional research fields and it was agreed that the goal is to create a document that is encouraging of all disciplines. She also suggested examples of biosketches be included for those unfamiliar. Dr. Dreyfus will update the program’s policies and guidelines document with the suggestions received and it will be distributed as well as posted to the ORS website.
- Overall, many members expressed that spring is too soon for a deadline and Ginny Blanton suggested the FFE follow the 9 month faculty contract timeline. It was decided that with this first year launch the application deadline will be during fall of 2015.

VI. Provost Search Feedback

- Mark Johnson, as a member of the Provost Search Committee, asked members what qualities and background they are seeking in candidates for the position. He said there has been an emphasis on tenured research faculty experience, and it was also suggested that someone who is resourceful toward finding alternative funding is important in today’s budget climate. He said he welcomes and appreciates feedback from RAC members as he participates in the first stage of the search.