

RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2016 MEETING

I. Time, Location and Attendance

- 3:30PM, Plaza Room at Administrative Center
- RAC members present: Lawrence Dreyfus, Maureen Hannoun, Kathleen Kilway, Mary Walker, Mark Johnson, Bob Simmons, Paula Monaghan-Nichols, Mark Nichols, Eric Anderson, Anil Kumar, Chris Holman, Robert Groene, Jennifer Lundgren, Brenda Dingley, Denis Medeiros, and Leslie Burgess.

II. Introductions

- Members introduced themselves and welcomed two new faculty members, Associate Dean of Research for the School of Medicine, Paula Monaghan-Nichols, and Associate Dean of Research for the School of Nursing and Health Studies, Mark Nichols.
- Dr. Dreyfus explained that for members who are unable to meet during the allotted Monday meeting time due teaching schedules and other conflicts, we will be emailing minutes and materials as well as posting them on the RAC website at <http://ors.umkc.edu/office-of-research-services/research-advisory-council>

III. Research Space Policy Development

- The first discussion topic built on a presentation given by Bob Simmons regarding research space policy during the last RAC meeting in May. This information can be found at <http://ors.umkc.edu/docs/default-source/Research-Advisory-Council/research-advisory-council-briefing-05-02-2016-draft-pdf87ce126092a969059d06ff000079aef3.pdf?sfvrsn=4>
- The Research Space Policy Appendix B was distributed to members for reference. Dr. Dreyfus explained that the space policy overall is a thorough but updates are needed to address the mechanics for reallocation of underused space. He said that a joint Research Space Sub-Committee made from Facility Advisory Committee members and RAC members will be formed to offer policy recommendations and revisions.
- Dr. Dreyfus summarized the following regarding space utilization/assignment:
 - All desirable space at UMKC is presently occupied/claimed.
 - Some research space is presently occupied by tenured faculty that are no longer research active.
 - Shifting priorities, growth, and decline in units means space and human capital needs to be exchanged/changed fluidly to achieve its sufficient use.
 - An updated policy or procedure that ties productivity/status and needs of one's research space to its allocation/revocation is needed.

- The overall goal is to achieve flexible and transparent movement of space to enhance operations/output within the scope and context of the universities' mission, need(s), and plan. The proposed Research Space Sub-Committee will be created to study, discuss, and recommend solutions.
- Bob Simmons noted that when the space policy was first established in 2007-08 there was some fluidity with administrative space while having very little on the research side. Dr. Dreyfus added that it's important to be entrepreneurial with space so that its usage is aligned with what is best for the University, not exclusive to units.
 - Paula Monaghan-Nichols noted the value of a space goes beyond the laboratory accommodations and architecture, and that being surrounded by other active researchers is appealing and adds quality to spaces. Being surrounded by vacant labs can be less desirable however great a facility might be.
 - Jennifer Lundgren asked about conducting a needs assessment and Bob Simmons noted that in the past it was based on research expenditures over a 3-year period. Members discussed the importance of looking beyond monetary evaluation of research needs. Kathleen Kilway explained that with the amount of collaborations done between researchers and other aspects of teaching, from dissertations to books, it's difficult to assess fairly based on research dollars alone.
 - Members agreed that overall inclusivity is needed in allocating space and Dr. Dreyfus confirmed that this was the charge of this sub-committee in looking beyond the PeopleSoft version of research productivity.
 - Mark Johnson noted that the group needs to define the different types of space and the variety of needs, such as administrative and teaching spaces, as it can vary greatly from one department to the next. Allocating space would ideally be on a case-by-case basis, as one size doesn't fit all.
 - In discussing the sub-committee charge, Dr. Dreyfus explained that it would primarily be the development of action steps and guidelines, creating a working document that all can agree on which gives transparent use of facilities and space assignments. Mark Johnson concluded that there is an ebb and flow in grant dollars along with an ebb and flow in needs and having guidelines with how to address this with space allocation would be helpful.
 - Dr. Dreyfus asked that members who are interested in participating in the Research Space Sub-Committee him contact him. Tony Caruso will be leading the group and Kathleen Kilway volunteered to participate. Dr. Kumar will seek participation by a member of the School of Pharmacy faculty.

IV. FFE Launch and Review Process

- Dr. Dreyfus noted that the deadline for proposals for the Funding For Excellence grant program is Friday, September 16th at 5pm. The award will provide funding for faculty projects up to \$15K. With \$100K budget last year, seven projects were funded.

- In discussing the review process, members reflected on last year's procedures. Dr. Dreyfus explained that members of the RAC, along with other faculty volunteers, reviewed applications based on their areas of study: Education, Engineering & Applied Science, Humanities, Library Science, Life Sciences, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Visual & Performing Arts.
 - Dr. Dreyfus said that each group of reviewers were given applications to assess and then they met for a final meeting to rank and choose the awardees. He said that he'd like to have two meetings this year, one initial discussion and then one meeting to conclude with review time in between. He also mentioned possibly having primary and secondary reviewers. Jennifer Lundgren said that reviewing the top half exclusively in the final meeting would be beneficial.
 - He explained that the review form used last year for ranking will be disbursed to RAC members to edit and/or update. Members concluded that providing more detailed feedback to all who apply will be important, regardless of outcomes.
- The FFE website, with Policies and Guidelines and application form, can be found at:
 - <http://ors.umkc.edu/pre-award/funding-opportunities/funding-for-excellence>

V. iThenticate (*follow up*)

- Dr. Dreyfus said the Office of Research Services has tested a number of proposals through the software and that it has gone well. The use of the software will not postpone proposal submissions and all that are put through the system will be alerted if results are flagged.

VI. Trustee and N.T. Veatch Award Nominations Deadline

- The 2016 deadline is Monday, October 17th. Dr. Dreyfus encourages RAC members to remind colleagues. Information and applications can be found on the below website:
 - <http://ors.umkc.edu/pre-award/faculty-awards>

VII. Agenda Items for new Academic Year

- Dr. Dreyfus encouraged RAC members send any ideas for agenda items to him or to Leslie Burgess for inclusion in upcoming meetings.