

## RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2016 MEETING

#### I. Time, Location and Attendance

- 3:00 PM, Gillham Park Room at Administrative Center
- RAC members present: Lawrence Dreyfus, Jenny Lundgren, Greg Vonnahme, Mark Nichols, Tony Caruso, James Murowchick, Paula Monaghan-Nichols, Brenda Dingley, Peter Morello, Mary Walker, Anil Kumar, Robert Groene, Mark Johnson, Chris Holman, Jeffrey Price, and Leslie Burgess.
- Others in attendance: Viviana Grieco, FSEC, IFC Representative

#### II. Introduction

- Members introduced themselves and Dr. Dreyfus welcomed the group. He presented the primary purpose of the meeting, to discuss the restructuring of the RAC.

#### III. Reconfiguration of RAC Discussion/Action

- Dr. Dreyfus described the restructuring of the committee, as based on recommendations of the CIE ORS Task Force, as well as input from the Faculty Senate. He briefly described a vision for the group as consisting of elected faculty representatives from each unit, participation by the Associate Deans for Research and other *ex officio* members as desired/needed. Once the reconfigured council is established, a chair, elected from the faculty representatives, will lead the Council.
- Anil Kumar provided the input from the ORS Task Force regarding the committee. He said there are two criteria the representatives could be chosen by, one faculty member per school or based on scholarly activity. *Ex Officio* members could be present, but non-voting. The main idea, he explained, is that the committee is completely independent of the Office of Research Services administration, although they can be present to advise or provide information. He mentioned the notion of Dr. Dreyfus leading an external advisory committee as a potentially useful addition to obtain input on research.
- After discussion, there was a consensus among members that representatives from each unit would be preferable over choosing representatives based on scholarly activity. Dr. Dreyfus noted that in the current iteration of the Council there is still a mix of elected and appointed representation and some schools have not elected members as of yet. He hopes in the new structure all slots will be filled, ideally by the end of the year.
- There were questions regarding whether Deans or faculty with administrative titles could fill an RAC faculty membership position. Dr. Kumar explained that as far as membership representation, if a school elects a person who happens to be in an administrative role as well then that is acceptable. The Task Force's primary concern was ensuring the leadership and planning of the committee be exclusively faculty governed.

- Dr. Dreyfus explained that the College of Arts and Sciences presently has three representatives and that he supported this configuration, given the breadth of research and scholarly activity within the College. There was disagreement amongst the group as to whether this would be the best model. Dr. Kumar expressed a desire that the group be smaller and that three representatives from the College was unnecessary. Dr. Lundgren pointed out the wide variety of research issues across the College and how, for instance, it would be difficult for someone in the Humanities to effectively represent someone in the natural sciences, etc. ~~The group agreed that if it's decided to have three representatives for A&S in the new model.~~
- Dr. Dreyfus asked if the concern with the College having three representatives was a matter of voting numbers and would it be acceptable for the College to have three representatives but only one vote when it comes to such matters. The consensus of the group was that 3 representatives and 1 vote for the College was an acceptable compromise.
- Mark Johnson noted that the new RAC could ideally function similar to the Faculty Senate Budget Committee model, with the RAC Chair reporting issues or recommendations to the Senate. The Chair can then bring issues to ORS, who would then bring them to the Provost and Chancellor. He said he views the charge of the committee to be primarily advisory, making recommendations on changes in or proposing new policies and procedures. Others felt that the RAC should operate independently of the Faculty Senate and should advise not only the VCR but directly the Chancellor and Provost on some issues (e.g, the Research Strategic Plan and funding ORS through the GRA). A clarification on the issue of reporting will be requested of Faculty Senate.
- It was agreed that Dr. Dreyfus would meet separately on a regular basis with the Associate Deans of Research, independently from RAC.
- Paula Nichols expressed the overall need to comprise the new committee with members with strong interest in research, regardless of their administrative roles. She said the group brings the concerns and needs of faculty to the table of the upper administration. She asked whether there would be a difference in voting rights for Tenured or Non-tenured faculty. Viviana Grieco pointed out that, like the Faculty Senate, it should be left to each unit to decide and the group agreed that each school would be best to interpret their own needs.
- Tony Caruso proposed that the Institute of Human Development (IHD) also have representation in the group, given their breadth of successful research funding. It was explained that IHD centers on research and training for human services, particularly for those with disabilities.
- The timeline for electing members was discussed with Dr. Johnson explaining that ballots could be created now in order to have membership representation by spring of 2018. Dr. Dreyfus suggested that the group continue as is for now, and that elections to either endorse existing members or elect new members could take place before the

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end of the calendar year. He said he would reach out to the Deans ASAP, explaining the new committee and upcoming election process.

- Dr. Grieco said she will bring these notes to Faculty Senate and Dr. Johnson said they should be asked two questions: How should the College of Arts & Sciences be handled regarding membership and voting? What is the Research Advisory Council's relationship to the Senate? It was concluded that their view on these issues would be helpful in moving forward with the reconfiguration.
- Dr. Dreyfus suggested the group continue to meet on the first Monday of each month until the new committee is formed, with October 2<sup>nd</sup> being the next meeting.

#### **IV. Funding for Excellence**

- Dr. Dreyfus explained that the deadline for the FFE 2017 grant was September 15<sup>th</sup> and he asked the group to assist with reviewing applications. A handout of a summary of 2017 applications was distributed to members, showing a total of 34 submissions. He noted that depending on the variety of topics, the group may need to reach out for other faculty help in the review process. Dr. Johnson pointed out that it would be helpful to look at the progress reports from past FFE winners, detailing their projects. Dr. Dreyfus said he would reach out for documentation from the past participants, as they would also be good as promotional material.

#### **V. University Strategic Plan Timetable**

- Dr. Dreyfus explained that one pillar of the overall UMKC Strategic Plan is now in development and covers Research excellence. He will be keeping the group informed as the plan develops and will be seeking input from the group on that.

#### **VI. Research Space Allocation**

- Bob Simmons, Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration, the Provost and the Vice Chancellor Dreyfus are charged by the University Space Policy to develop procedures for implementation of a research space allocation plan. The procedures to be developed will stipulate how research space is allocated or reallocated within academic units and, where appropriate across academic units. As it is being developed, the procedure will be brought to the RAC and the Faculty Senate for input and recommendations.

#### **VII. F&A Expenditure Guidelines**

- Dr. Dreyfus explained that the new budget rules call for a reporting by the VCR on academic unit F&A. In the past, very detailed audits had been requested from ORS, and while the purpose will be the same, he hopes to write a more streamlined document for each Dean to sign off on, such as a list of acceptable expenditures. He said this is a work in progress and will most likely not be implemented until after fall semester.

#### **VIII. Upcoming Calendar Dates**

- Faculty Research Symposium, December 8, Student Union

- Kansas City Musculoskeletal Diseases and Disorders Consortium Symposium, December 15, Pierson Auditorium

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