

**Research Planning Committee (RPC) Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 23, 2022**  
**2:30 p.m.**  
**Zoom Video Conference**  
**Minutes**

**Members Present:**

David Ford, Ph.D., chairperson  
Daniel Hoft, M.D., Ph.D.  
Ratna Ray, Ph.D.  
John Walker, Ph.D.  
Gary Albers, M.D., ex officio  
Enrico Di Cera, ex officio  
Richard DiPaolo, Ph.D., ex officio  
Ravi Nayak, M.D., ex officio  
Daniela Salvemini, Ph.D., ex officio  
Jeffrey Scherrer, Ph.D. ex officio (as designated for Kim Schiel)  
Ajay Jain, M.D., Ph.D., ex officio non-voting  
Oleg Kisselev, Ph.D., ex officio non-voting  
John Long, D.V.M., ex officio non-voting  
Adriana Montaña, Ph.D., ex officio non-voting

Kenneth Olliff, D. Min., MBA, ex officio non-voting

**Members Not Present:**

Noah Hillman, M.D.  
John Tavis, Ph.D.  
Angel Baldan, Ph.D., ex officio  
Kim Schiel, M.D., ex officio  
Tammy Burton, CPA, ex officio non-voting  
Willis Samson, Ph.D., ex officio non-voting

**Guests:**

Sandra Cornell  
Stephanie Decker  
Dagmar Ralphs (as designated for Tammy Burton)

**1. The Minutes of the January 26, 2022 meeting were approved.**

**2. Capital Equipment Questionnaire**

Sandra Cornell, SOM Research Planning & Operations Manager, presented a Google sheets questionnaire. The questionnaire will eventually be sent to SOM department administrators and PIs for on-going capital equipment requests. The Finance Office would like the departments to begin looking at these purchases in a strategic way - which equipment requests/purchases will elevate SOM researchers to the next level and provide the greatest impact for all. Here is a summary of the questions:

- Department name
- Equipment item
- Cost (also attach quote)
- Number of PIs who will benefit from this equipment
- Would this equipment be used to accomplish specific aims of any currently active grants?
- Would any of these active grants be able to support a percentage of the purchase?
- If yes, what percentage (grant dollars)?
- Do you have any departmental dollars that could be used towards this purchase?
- If yes, what percentage (departmental dollars)?
- Will this equipment require an ongoing maintenance agreement?
- Are there funds available for an annual maintenance agreement or maintenance/repairs as issues arise?
- Will investment in this equipment require the hiring of additional staff?

- Is there funding available for these added personnel costs?
- Are there alternative mechanisms for purchasing equipment (NSF, NIH equipment supplements)?
- If yes, when did you apply?
- Is there a mechanism in place such as a chargeback to defray some of the cost of this equipment?
- Description / Purpose / Justification

### 3. Strategies for Growing Genomics Core

Richard DiPaolo, PhD, Interim Chair for the Molecular Microbiology & Immunology Dept, gave a quick overview of the Genomics Core and projects supported by it. Many recent, high-impact publications have been supported by the core. Three grants have been funded by this technology. At least five or six more have been submitted. The core has raised the profile of SOM publications and grant application capabilities.

- Only one person running the core, Michelle Pherson, PhD, who is overwhelmed with projects. The core needs another person to help with the workload.
- The new person's main role would be to expand the bioinformatics capabilities within the core.
- A 5-year plan of \$100K per year of support to the core was suggested. After 5-years, this should be a no-cost endeavor based on recovery from the grants.
- From where will these funds come?
- A joint buy-in from numerous revenue streams was suggested: SOM (Finance Office), OVPR, and SOM departments. Another suggestion was that \$50K per year could come from the Research Opportunity Fund (ROF) and the other \$50K from the Dean, individual departments. The ROF is currently \$49,794. Dr. Olliff suggested that the RPC would be the best judge on how to use those funds going forward.

**Action Item:** Drs. DiPaolo and Ford will put together a concrete plan on how to proceed with this idea before the next RPC meeting.

### 4. Grant Incubator Applicant – Committee Vote

- Dr. Jingsong Zhang has applied to the Grant Incubator for a \$10,000 grant. His application was submitted to the RPC in advance.
- Seven members voted in favor of him receiving the funds; two members voted against it.

**Action Item:** Dr. Zhang will receive funding from the Grant Incubator.

### 5. OVPR Update – Kenneth Olliff, DMin

Dr. Ken Olliff, Vice President for Research, provided a 5-year research update for the university. Dr. Olliff stated that this was not a School of Medicine plan, so many of the issues important to the SOM would not be addressed. The SOM's responsibility is to build its own research growth plan. The PPT presentation included:

- Vision statement: SLU as a Preeminent Jesuit Research University in St. Louis
- Accomplishments from First Five Years, 2016-2021
- SLU Research Expenditures, 2016-2021
- SLU Research: 2022-2026 – Achieving Escape Velocity

- The Experience of Doing Research at SLU
- Five Year Plan: 2022-2026
- Strategies: 1. Research Intensive Faculty
- Strategies: 2. Research Strengths
- Strategies: 3. Research Growth as a SLU-Wide Priority
- Strategies: 4. Solidify Regional Leadership Role
- Enabling Elements: A. Research Support
- Enabling Elements: B. Philanthropy
- Enabling Elements: D. SLU Innovation
- Five Year Research Growth Metrics
- SLU Research Path to Carnegie 1 (chart)

Dr. DiPaolo asked about the reinvestment of indirect funds.

Dr. Olliff stated that it was re-done three years ago. The agreement made 3 or 4 years ago with the CFO was that the first \$7.5 million in indirects would stay with the university to pay for the OVPR office and building maintenance. After that, the remaining amount would get distributed with 30% to PIs, an amount to the Deans, an amount to the OVPR, an amount to the departments. The benefit: the university contribution has a ceiling. So, as we grow, the amount going to the PIs and the departments grows as well.

## 6. Interim Sr. Associate Dean for Research Update – Adriana Montano, PhD

Dr. Montano provided a PPT presentation on the following three topics:

### **HURON and Redesign of Clinical Trials**

- Where are we in the process?
  - Phase 1: conduct discovery; goals and objectives (Dec – Jan)
  - Phase 2: future state design collaboration (Feb)
  - Phase 3: design guide and implementation approach (Mar)
- Guiding principles: one vision, alignment between SLU & SSM Health, continuous improvement mindset, efficiency, scalable and adaptable operating model, harmonized enterprise information technology footprint, compliance-focused
- Design guide areas of focus: research culture, governance & organizational alignment, operations, compliance & regulatory, technology
- Huron will provide drafts next week for the working groups, some of which include Dr. Ray Tait, Jessica Evenson and Swati Ayyagari in Compliance, Blythe Burkhardt in General Counsel, Tammy Burton and Dagmar Ralphs in SOM Finance/Workday, Dean Chris Jacobs, Dr. Matt Zimmie, Matthew Christian in OVPR.

### **ICTS**

- KL2 program workshop – April – Dr. Dominic Reeds – obstacles identified from SLU applicants; award designed to identify and train outstanding junior faculty seeking career in clinical and translational research; covers up to 75% salary for two years
- Mentorship, commitment, and salary coverage from clinical department chairs is needed for junior faculty who apply for the KL2 program to be successful.
- TL1 program – April – Dr. Jay Piccirillo; predoctoral program provides career development for medical and allied healthcare students

### **Grant Incubator**

- Three PIs in the pilot program: Dr. Aurora (MMI), Dr. Zhang and Dr. de Vera (PPS)
- Dr. DiPaolo used the grant writing services from the Incubator and found it very helpful.

## 7. Old Business – David Ford, PhD

2022 SOM President’s Research Fund Award Recipients

- Ryan Teague, PhD, Molecular Microbiology & Immunology
- Sarah George, MD, Internal Medicine-Infectious Diseases & Immunology
- Xiaofeng Fan, PhD, Internal Medicine-Gastroenterology
- Robert Fleming, MD, Pediatrics
- Yasar Caliskan, MD, Internal Medicine

Research Growth Fund – Dr. Ford stated that the recipients have shown a good return on investments concerning monies that have been allocated. He will be requesting another allotment of funds from the Research Institute.

Grant Balance Report – Ms. Dagmar Ralphs stated that the reports are prepared and ready to go. They will be rolled out on the call tomorrow. As a result, PIs will be able to see their grant balances.

RPC Minutes are available to the committee members. Once the minutes are approved by the RPC, they should be distributed to the faculty in your department. The minutes will also be reviewed by the Dean.

## 8. New Business – David Ford, PhD

Institutional Nomination to the 2023 Pew Scholars Program in Biomedical Sciences

- Application deadline: April 20, 2022 using SLU’s Openwater system

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandra Cornell  
SOM Research Planning & Operations Manager