

Research Planning Committee (RPC) Meeting
Wednesday, April 27, 2022
2:30 p.m.
Zoom Video Conference
Minutes

Members Present:

David Ford, Ph.D., chairperson
Noah Hillman, M.D.
Daniel Hoft, M.D., Ph.D.
Ratna Ray, Ph.D.
John Tavis, Ph.D.
John Walker, Ph.D.
Enrico Di Cera, ex officio
Richard DiPaolo, 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
Willis Samson, Ph.D., ex officio non-voting

Members Not Present:

Gary Albers, M.D., ex officio
Ravi Nayak, M.D., ex officio
Daniela Salvemini, Ph.D., ex officio
Kim Schiel, M.D., ex officio
Tammy Burton, CPA, ex officio non-voting
Kenneth Olliff, D. Min., MBA, ex officio non-voting

Guests:

Yuna Ayala, PhD
Sandra Cornell
Stephanie Decker
Tammy Grant (as designated for Tammy Burton)
Dagmar Ralphs (as designated for Tammy Burton)
Ray Tait, PhD

1. The Minutes of the March 23, 2022 meeting were approved with one correction.

2. Clinical Trials Accelerator

Dr. Ray Tait, Professor in the Dept of Psychiatry-Administration, updated the Committee on the activities of this collaboration between SSM and SLU. The steering committee has been meeting since November 2021. Their focus is oncology clinical trials headed up by Dr. George Daneker of SSM along with Dr. Tait of SLU. The initiatives include Tempus: just-in-time trials; St. Mary's Hospital: 2 NRG trials; and front door / broad consent. Currently, SSM's main interest in research involves clinical trials.

3. MD/PhD Program

Dr. Yuna Ayala, Vice Chair of the Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Department, and Dr. Ajay Jain, Assoc. Div. Director of GI and MD/PhD Program Director, discussed the history and current status of the program and attempts to fund more students per year for future cohorts. Retention of existing MD/PhD students to SLU after graduation, future directions and challenges of the program were also discussed.

An extensive discussion regarding the need for a strong MD/PhD program to recruit research faculty / clinical scientists was held. The Committee will craft a letter of support of the program to the Dean.

4. Strategies for Growing the Genomics Core

Dr. Richard DiPaolo discussed the need to support and grow this core. There is currently one person operating the core. There is a proposal in place to employ one more person who will be funded by the MMI Dept and the Biochemistry Dept.

5. Interim Sr. Associate Dean for Research Update

Dr. Adriana Montano provided a PPT presentation featuring updates from the HURON group. The list of working group members was provided as well. The engagement goals, scope and approach were discussed. Phase 3 – the design guide and implementation approach – was completed in March.

6. OVPR Update

Dr. Montano also presented the information provided by the OVPR.

- Grant Winner and Scholarly Works award ceremony – May 18th at 3PM
- PRF awards will start May 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023
- Joining efforts with Mizzou to strengthen ICTS collaboration
- Taylor Geospatial Institute launched on April 22, 2022; contact Dr. Vasit Sagan if interested
- Research Impact report will start soon

7. Old Business

- Pew Scholars – will get more information on this from the OVPR office
- Renegotiating the F&A – Matthew Christian and SOM are working on this effort
- SOM Research Website – will have RPC minutes on it and available in June 2022
- Dr. Ford met with Dr. Ken Olliff last month regarding the Research Opportunity Fund (ROF). A request for another \$300K will be submitted. The current balance is \$49,794.
- A Workday dashboard for principal investigators is in the works. Ms Ralphs is open to suggestions on what the dashboard should include.

8. New Business

Dr. Hoft and Dr. DiPaolo mentioned new strategic equipment needs. Mrs. Cornell stated that these strategic equipment needs should be submitted with a quote to the questionnaire that was presented in last month's meeting. Once that has been done, the PI will be asked to give a presentation to the RPC for its feedback.

Dr. Scherrer has asked that anyone interested in turning their resources into an ICTS just-in-time core should reach out to him.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Cornell
SOM Research Planning & Operations Manager