

MINUTES

Research Strategic Advisory Council

Thursday, May 17, 2018

3:00pm – 4:00pm

302 AAB

Members Present: Andrea Giuffrida, Kathryn Aultman, Robert Clark, Christopher Green, Byron Hepburn, Ruben Mesa, Alexander Pertsemlidis, Shivani Ruparel, Rajeshwar Tekmal, Brij Singh and Kyumin Whang

Members Absent: Carrie Jo Braden, Erzsebet Kokovay, Jennifer Potter, and Maureen Simmonds

Guests: Ramiro Ramirez-Solis

Minutes from 1/18/18 were approved.

Animal activism and DLAR open house

Dr. Giuffrida noted he was contacted by Lorraine Hayden, Executive Director for the Texas Society for Biomedical Research (TSBR) to engage in programs that explain the importance of animal research to the public. TSBR is a non-profit organization that partners with institutions to advocate and work with legislators to advance animal research. Dr. Giuffrida met with several groups across campus to discuss possible strategies to educate the public about the key role played by animals in biomedical research. Following discussions, the Office of the VP for Research partnered with the Americans for Medical Progress (AMP) and held a Biomedical Research Awareness Day (BRAD) on Thurs, April 26th on main campus. Dr. Giuffrida asked the RSAC to consider opening the HSC animal facility to the public.

RSAC recommended a pilot inviting a small group (for example, Voelcker students, or a high school classroom) and use booths and other educational settings to inform visitors about different activities within the animal facility and research projects using different types of animals.

New policy on Research Cores

Dr. Ramirez-Solis presented an overview of the new Research Core Labs policy. The proposed criteria for an Institutional Core Laboratory would be: 1) serves a broad user base throughout the University; 2) complies with the provisions of the Research Core Labs policy; 3) receives subsidy from the Office of the VPR; 4) provides a defined set of services on a fee-for-service basis; 5) complies with additional Cancer Center specific requirements (only those cores receiving subsidy from the Mays Cancer Center). Currently, there are 9 Institutional Core Laboratories. The new policy proposes an application process for a lab to become a new Institutional Core Laboratory. Upon approval, the Office of the VPR would provide: 1) access to the iLabs core management system; 2) administrative and financial support and oversight; 3) presence on the Institutional Core Labs website and other marketing initiatives. The organizational structure of each cores would include: 1) Core Director responsible for all aspects of the core activities; 2) Scientific Core Committee, which evaluates the core's performance and provides scientific advice to the Core Director and Director of the Research Core Facilities; 3) Institutional Core Committee, which advises the VPR on the overall performance of the Core Labs, creation of new Cores or corrective measures/sunsetting of existing ones; 4) Director of Research Core Facilities will provide administrative support and oversight. Other guidelines included in the policy are: 1) cores operate on a break-even basis over a three-year period; 2) pay only for services that have been completed (no pre-payment); 3) adopt documented methodology to calculate fee rates; 4) fee rates are reviewed every other year and modified where necessary. The classes of fee rates include: 1) *external commercial users*, to cover the full burden cost of a core service plus a premium; 2) *external academic users*, to cover the full cost of a core service; 3) *internal users fees*: these are subsidized by the Office of the VPR; 4) *UT System Core Laboratory Network fees*: these are the same

as internal user fees as per agreement; 5) All investigators from the Mays Cancer Center receive a 10% discount from those cores subsidized by the Cancer center. The annual review process for cores will be coordinated between the Mays Cancer Center and the Office of the VPR. Each core laboratory will produce an updated business plan annually. Special reviews of specific core laboratories may be triggered by concerns from funders, stakeholders or the Office of the VPR.

After discussion and clarifications, RSAC approved the next step, which is the presentation of the policy to the Deans' Council and Faculty Council.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05pm