

MINUTES

Research Strategic Advisory Council

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

4:00pm – 5:00pm

302 AAB

Members Present: Andrea Giuffrida, Robert Clark, Christopher Green, Alexander Pertsemelidis, Charles France, Thomas Oates, Byron Hepburn, Mike Beckstead, Reto Asmis, Carrie Jo Braden, Rajeshwar Tekmal and Jennifer Potter

Guest: Valerie Hutchison

Members Absent: Ian Thompson, Maureen Simmonds, Kyumin Whang and Erzsebet Kokovay

Dr. Giuffrida introduced new members of the council Dr. Charles France and Dr. Jennifer Potter

Minutes from 9/17/15 approved by Council

Biorepository work group (update)

Dr. Giuffrida reported that the Texas Regional CTSA Consortium (TRCC) submitted an application for a Collaborative Innovative Award for the creation of a regional biobank that could serve CTSA, UT System and the UT System clinical trial network. Dr. Giuffrida commented that UT System has expressed an interest in building a Clinical Data Warehouse to accommodate all patient data from different clinical enterprises, and that the regional biobank would be eventually linked to this data warehouse. UT System is in the process of accepting proposals for models of how to develop a biorepository warehouse with the idea of connecting all biobanks (and relative patient data) across UT System and then feeding the data into a larger centralized data biobank which would be linked to the larger Clinical Data Warehouse. Dr. Giuffrida noted at the last RSAC meeting, Dr. Thompson discussed that the CTRC would create a working group to look at the internal challenges and common data elements needed to create a biorepository. *Dr. Thompson will be asked to present an update at the next meeting.*

Opportunities to improve grant announcements across the schools

Dr. Giuffrida discussed the current methods of grant announcements across the schools, which include the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) "Listserve", regular funding alerts, weekly NIH funding opportunities/notices and limited submission opportunities/notices. Dr. Giuffrida noted that several faculty have mentioned that grant funding opportunities are difficult to search and it may be useful to group them by topic/field in large categories, following for example the HSC areas of research strengths (Neuroscience, Cardiovascular, Cancer, Diabetes, Metabolic Disorders, Health Disparities and Military Health). Valerie Hutchison (Manager, Grants & Contracts/OSP) confirmed that all of the non-federal funding opportunities are currently available on the OSP website and are then taken down once the deadline passes. Chris Green noted that OSP will review how improvements could be made to their current funding webpage, and whether funding opportunities can be categorized in future emails announcements. Dr. Pertsemelidis asked if a timeline of potential future funding opportunities could be included, and Dr. Potter asked the same for limited submissions on the OSP website. *Mr. Green will follow-up at the next meeting.*

Dr. Clark reported that a new software tool will be soon available for the management of internal opportunities (InfoReady). InfoReady is a cloud based software system that can manage internal grants, applications for pilot projects and submission of abstracts and posters for conferences. InfoReady could also serve as a great resource for faculty to find what is available or upcoming for internal funding opportunities.

Institutional Grant Writing Office

Dr. Giuffrida asked if an institutional grant writing office should be created at the HSC to assist faculty in developing grants. Dr. Giuffrida requested quotes from two companies. The cost for a contract with McAllister & Quinn, covering service for review of up to 4 grants, is \$12,500/month or \$24,000 /month for review of up to 8 grants. A similar contract with Hanover Research would cost \$50,000/year or \$85,000 for 2 years. Dr. Pertsemlidis noted that Dr. Thompson recently closed the CTRC grant writing office and his view should be requested. Dr. France presented the idea of having HSC faculty incentivized to provide their expertise in internal study setions. *Dr. Giuffrida will visit with the Deans' and then will report back to the council.*

Strategic Plan for 2018-2022

Dr. Giuffrida received a request from Gayle Knight (Assistant VP for Strategic Planning and Institutional Analysis) for guidance on how to develop the 2018-2022 Research Strategic Plan process. Dr. Giuffrida showed the council Ms. Knight's current process which includes: 1) SWOT analysis; 2) Goals & vision of state, UTS, leadership & schools; 3) Input from Faculty, Staff, Students, Partners, Community Leaders; 4) Development of Schools' and Vice Presidents' strategic plans in coordination with the institutional plan; 5) Identify funding sources for implementing strategic initiatives; 6) Development of Institutional strategic plan/budget; 7) Semi-annual and annual progress reports on accomplishments. Dr. Clark and the committee agreed that input from faculty should be requested sooner than proposed and should continue throughout the process to improve transparency.

Dr. Giuffrida presented items which will need to be considered for the 2018 -2022 Research Strategic Plan such as: 1) Alignment of strategies with State of Texas, The University of Texas System and accrediting agencies; 2) Student needs and success in a changing environment; 3) Demographics of our region; 4) Educational and health care needs of the community; 5) Future workforce needs in health care and research; 6) Challenges and obstacles (i.e. financial, recruitment, declining funding, etc.); 7) Technology investments and funding sources. Dr. Giuffrida also discussed the best practice to solicit input for the SWOT analysis. The Committee suggested to start with a survey followed by discussions on the common emerging themes. Dr. France added to contact the Council of Principal Investigators for input as one venue for collecting information. *Dr. Giuffrida will refer back to Ms. Knight and solicit SWOT questions to be circulated among the Council members.*

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm