



MINUTES

Research Strategic Advisory Council

Tuesday, July 31, 2018

4:00pm – 5:00pm

ALTC 2.201

Members Present: Andrea Giuffrida, Robert Clark, Christopher Green, Erzsebet Kokovay, Ruben Mesa, Alexander Pertsemlidis, Jennifer Potter, Shivani Ruparel, Rajeshwar Tekmal, Brij Singh, Jing Wang, and Kyumin Whang

Members Absent: Byron Hepburn, and Maureen Simmonds

Minutes from 5/17/18 were approved.

Virtual Accelerator

Dr. Giuffrida presented the concept for a Virtual Accelerator operated by the Office of Technology Commercialization (OTC) to develop faculty/staff/student entrepreneurial skills and facilitate startups formation via workshops, seed funds, mentoring, networking events and eLearning tools. The Virtual Accelerator will coordinate activities such as: 1) Education – online resources, entrepreneur mentoring, Eli Lilly certificate course and pre-PTEF preparation; 2) Commercialization – pipeline funding (PTEF), CPRIT product development grants, mentor network and entrepreneurship concierge; 3) Collaborations – Texas Venture Connect, patent nationalization fund, UT Horizon Fund and partnerships with local incubation programs. The goal of the Virtual Accelerator is to: 1) have more intellectual property disclosed and commercialized, 2) increase grant funding (SBIR/STTR), 3) prepare faculty for applying to the PTEF competition, 3) create more robust startups/licenses, 4) have more follow-on venture funding, and 5) be cost effective as minimal space is required. Activities that are currently offered under Education & Commercialization include: certificate in Translational Science, ComCats Internship Program, Entrepreneurship 101 Workshop, Entrepreneurial Faculty Scholars Group, Health Cell Knowledge Base Program and HealthTech Bootcamp, NIH SBIR/STTR Workshops, NSF I-Corps program, Pre-PTEF Preparation, and Science, Technology, Investor reception (STIR). New activities under Education & Commercialization that will be offered include: Entrepreneur Mentoring Program and Early Stage Innovation Education Support (Lean Canvas Methodology, Making Medicines: The Process of Drug Development/Eli Lilly eLearning Course). The Virtual Accelerator Organizational Structure will include an Advisory Board as well as a Director, administrative support and a website manager. The launching of the Accelerator is planned for February/March 2019.

Nature Masterclasses

The Nature Masterclasses was purchased for one year and expires on 8/15/18. The majority of the users were postdoctoral fellows and graduate students. 148 people created an account, 62 used the classes and 4 completed the certification.

Dr. Potter and Dr. Clark left prior to vote of continuation, so vote is still on hold.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm