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**RECORDED MINUTES**  
**Research Policy Committee**

**April 9, 2007 Meeting**  
**3:30 PM**

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**PRESENT:**

Amy Arai, Ph.D.	Joseph Milbrandt, Ph.D.
Kathy Campbell, Ph.D.	Prema Narayan, Ph.D.
Don Caspary, Ph.D., Ex-Officio	Sophia Ran, Ph.D.
Mark Francis, M.D., Chair	Laura Rogers, M.D.
Robert Helfert, Ph.D.	Bradley Schwartz, D.O.
Tim Koschmann, Ph.D.	Linda Toth, Ph.D., Ex Officio
Mary McAsey, Ph.D.	Ko Watabe, Ph.D., Ex Officio

**ABSENT:**

Carol Bauer, M.D.	M. Steven Evans, M.D.
Sukesh Bhaumik, Ph.D.	Peter Patrylo, Ph.D.

**GUEST:**

Mary Pauza, Ph.D.  
Chair, Laboratory Animal Care and Use Committee (LACUC)

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The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

The March 5, 2007 minutes were approved.

**Announcements**

Dr. Toth announced that Dr. Helfert received an NIH award to purchase a Xenogen IVIS 100 system Bioluminescence Imaging instrument. Dr. Helfert will announce additional information, including training information, when the instrument arrives. The committee commended Dr. Helfert on his efforts and success in this endeavor.

Dr. Francis announced the composition of the Research Strategic Agenda Task Force that includes Drs. Toth (Convener), Arbogast, Cooper, Eleble, and Francis. Dr. Francis read the Dean's charge to that committee and invited committee members to submit suggestions or ideas to him or other members of the Strategic Agenda Team. The first meeting will be on April 11, and the Task Force will report to the Dean on June 1.

Dr. Francis asked the committee to consider replacements to fill the vacancies created as committee terms for Drs. Arai, Bauer, Francis, Koschmann and Helfert expire at the end of this fiscal year. In addition, Dr. Francis asked that members begin to consider nominations for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions of the Research Policy Committee for the upcoming fiscal year.

Today's meeting will focus on Animal Care and Use Committees. The following are already on the agenda for May's meeting:

- Report from the Allocation of Laboratory Space Subcommittee
- SCRIHS

## **I. Report from the Subcommittee for Animal Care and Use Committees**

### **LACUC Evaluation Update**

Dr. Helfert reported that the RPC formed a subcommittee of three Springfield (Helfert, Arai, and Ran) and two Carbondale (Bhaumik and Patrylo) faculty members to evaluate the institutional animal care and use committees (IACUCs) on both campuses. The committee sent a questionnaire to 37 Springfield faculty members with active protocols to request their input on the strengths and weaknesses of the LACUC. Eleven responses were received. The subcommittee met to discuss potential solutions and included in the discussions Mary Pauza, Ph.D., Chair of LACUC.

While it was noted that the LACUC possesses numerous strengths, concerns from the Springfield faculty appeared focused primarily on two issues: 1) complexity of the protocol and 2) the manner in which the LACUC conducts its reviews. In particular, it was felt that the LACUC protocol is getting progressively more complicated, is harder to fill out, and requests too many details on *in vitro* aspects of the proposed studies.

Dr. Pauza stated that LAUC does require details to provide assurance of the scientific merit of the protocol. The committee reviews the methodology to determine whether useful data will be obtained and to ensure excellent animal care. Protocols are only rarely tabled, and few protocols require a second full committee review. LACUC has established New Committee Member training. As reviewers gain more experience, their critiques should improve.

Dr. Pauza also stated that policies are available on the LACUC website. In addition to implementing electronic forms for submission, they have developed standard policy procedures that can then be cut and pasted into the PI's document (as long as the PI actually adheres to the procedures thus copied). A simple, standard protocol is also available on the website, and they continue to develop the help menu.

Dr. Helfert reviewed the summary comments by the subcommittee and entertained several concerns and potential solutions to the problems by committee members. The discussion included using specific training on protocol review process for new LACUC members, allowing investigators to be present at LACUC meetings when their protocols are being reviewed, making available "canned" text to cut and paste into the application, and encouraging reviewers to contact applicants prior to the meeting in which their protocol will be discussed.

The committee thanked Dr. Pauza for coming to the RPC to discuss these issues. The subcommittee will draft a report that will be submitted for approval by the RPC within the next two months, after which it will be presented to the Faculty Council, Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Affairs, and Chair, LACUC.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm