
RECORDED MINUTES
Research Policy Committee

February 12, 2007 Meeting
3:30 PM

PRESENT:

Sukesh Bhaumik, Ph.D.
Mark Francis, M.D., Chair
Robert Helfert, Ph.D.
Tim Koschmann, Ph.D.
Joseph Milbrandt, Ph.D.

Peter Patrylo, Ph.D.
Sophia Ran, Ph.D.
Laura Rogers, M.D.
Ko Watabe, Ph.D., Ex Officio

ABSENT:

Amy Arai, Ph.D.
Carol Bauer, M.D.
Kathy Campbell, Ph.D.
Don Caspary, Ph.D., Ex-Officio
M. Steven Evans, M.D.

Mary McAsey, Ph.D.
Prema Narayan, Ph.D.
Bradley Schwartz, D.O.
Linda Toth, Ph.D., Ex Officio

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

Approval of Minutes

The January 8, 2007 minutes were approved.

Announcements

Dr. Francis announced that the committee voted Mary McAsey, Ph.D., Dept. of OB/GYN, to become the 15th member for the committee. The committee will have the opportunity to reconsider the others who were nominated when the committee decides on RPC membership later this spring.

Dr. Francis compiled the comments from RPC members and sent them to the Chair, Scientific Misconduct Committee.

The RPC received a response from the Dean about SCRIHS that Dr. Francis distributed to members by e-mail. The Dean also reports that he is talking with a candidate to become the Director of Clinical Research.

Dr. Francis reported that a lack of investigator-initiated research in some clinical divisions recently hindered their ability to obtain accredited fellowship training programs.

Dr. Ran announced that funding has been increased by 10% for the SOM library budget. On behalf of the committee, Dr. Francis will send a letter to thank Dean Dorsey for his support in obtaining these additional funds.

Dr. Helfert plans to present the LACUC subcommittee report at the April RPC meeting. Dr. Mary Pauza, Chair, LACUC, will be invited to attend. Dr. Helfert will let Dr. Francis know if he feels others should attend this meeting.

I. Meetings with the Dean/Strategic Planning

Dr. Francis announced that Dean Dorsey invited the Chair, RPC, to meet with him on

The first meeting was last Friday. Dr. Francis submitted the RPC feedback on the Strategic Plan that he sent to members by e-mail. He emphasized the importance of having measurable outcomes for each strategic point as well as accountability for the leadership to make sure the strategic goals are met. Dean Dorsey assured him that these would indeed be a part of the process.

In response to the concern about the role for basic science in the strategic plan, Dean Dorsey indicated that he feels that the basic science programs are doing well but that we need to enhance clinical investigation, which is why clinical research is discussed more in the strategic plan.

Dr. Francis and Dr. Dorsey discussed the relationship of this strategic plan with Southern at 150. Dr. Dorsey does not know the status of Southern at 150 in light of the change of the Chancellorship.

The priority numbers used in the strategic plan do not reflect the rank order of priority.

In the next phase, the Dean will assign task forces for research, education, and clinical activities. As Dr. Francis began to encourage committee members to become involved in these task forces, some RPC members volunteered the RPC to be used as the research task force. Dr. Francis will forward this recommendation to the Dean.

II. Policy for Allocation of Laboratory Space

The committee agreed that forming a subcommittee would be beneficial but raised some concerns. One concern was whether the subcommittee could effectively disagree with a decision from the ADRFA to remove lab space. The committee would like to have the scoring guidelines to be a part of the lab space policy. Many members felt that if a faculty member receives a low score, the faculty member should receive a probationary period of at least one year.

The committee did not want to approve the submitted policy at this time but did not seem eager to form a subcommittee either. The committee would first like to review the survey form and the guidelines. Nancy Austin will find the forms that were used three years ago and send them to the committee.

III. EAM Near Miss Awards with Successful Funding

Dr. Campbell withdrew this item from discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm