

RESEARCH POLICY COMMITTEE

January 12, 2009

3:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Kathleen Campbell, PhD, Chair
Mark Johnson, MD
Teresa Liberati, PhD, DVM
Paula Mackrides, DO
Mary McAsey PhD
Joseph Milbrandt, PhD
Prema Narayan, PhD
Louis Premkumar, PhD
Laura Rogers, MD
Steven Verhulst, PhD
Rodney Weilbaecher, Ph.D.

ABSENT:

James Black, Ph.D.
Sophia Ran, PhD, Vice Chair
Don Scott, MD
Andrew Sharp, Ph.D.

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Kounosuke Watabe, PhD, Chair of CRC
Sandra Puczynski, PhD, Dir. of Clinical
Research Development
Linda Toth, PhD, DVM, Associate Dean
for Research & Faculty Affairs

Chair Kathleen Campbell called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Announcements and Items for Brief Discussion

Dr. Milbrandt moved to approve the December 8, 2008 minutes as mailed. Dr. Premkumar seconded the motion. The motion was adopted.

Items for Discussion

Consideration of Space Allocation Subcommittee for Carbondale

Dr. Sharp reported that the Department of Anatomy has no need for a Space Allocation Subcommittee at this time. The Departments of Physiology and Biology reported the same. Dr. Campbell stated that at any time if Carbondale feels they could benefit from a Space Allocation Subcommittee, the item will be back on the agenda.

Discussion of EAM and EAM Near Miss Funding Issues

Dr. Toth commented on the data on the EAM and EAM Near Miss Awards. The faculty that received the awards and were granted external funding were identified. The EAM Near Miss Award has a 100% success rate for faculty in receiving external funding. Approximately 20-50% of those applying for an EAM or CRC grant have not previously competed or applied for funding. The Near Miss Awards have already been critiqued once and therefore should have increased funding. Kristi Katcher and Pam Helfert will review and provide data on faculty who did not receive external funding. Dr. Watabe stated his support for the EAM Near Miss Grants. He also reported from the CRC meeting that there is some concern with the internal review system. There is some bias that cannot

be avoided when working in an institution of this size. The RPC felt that the EAM is a good program and it is a fair system. Dr. Toth did state that during this next round of applications, an NIH-style score sheet will be used to score the applications. A question was raised if more monies need to be applied to the Near Miss award. Dr. Toth reported that 4-5 applications are received each quarter with 2-4 being funded by SIU. During the past quarter, 30-33% of the regular EAM grants were funded each at 80% of their budget. This discussion will be revisited if and when Dr. Toth receives more high quality EAM Near Miss applications than there is money to fund them. The RPC discussed whether there is there a way to encourage more faculty members to apply to the EAM Near Miss program. One suggestion was that perhaps Pam Helfert could send e-mail prompts to encourage more applications. Dr. Rogers reported that most did not apply for the Near Miss as more than \$25,000 was needed to gather pilot data and the regular EAM mechanism allowed for a larger budget. Dr. Toth is working with Carbondale to have their faculty apply for EAM funding.

Research Strategic Agenda Team (RSAT)

Dr. Campbell is a member of the RSAT Team and as such, she is looking for input on tasks 6.3, 6.5, 7.2, and 7.4. Dr. Campbell also discussed a future agenda item regarding the establishment of an ad hoc committee that would work to facilitate collaborations in research, technology transfer, establish collaborative partners, and match inventors with investigators, etc. to build up multidisciplinary teams throughout SIU SOM. Dr. Miller suggested that an interactive web page that highlights all research, inventions, and investigations could achieve this goal. Dr. Puczynski thought it would be prudent to table this idea until the RSAT Committee finishes their tasks. Then the RPC could build on what has already been accomplished. Dr. Rogers reported that the Simmons Cooper Cancer Institute (SCCI) is hosting a collaborative meeting for all breast cancer clinicians and researchers on January 19th. She will report back on how that collaborative meeting went.

For the February meeting, Dr. Campbell made the suggestion to have Dr. Steve Verhulst and Dr. Don Scott lead a discussion on medical education and research. Dr. Deb Klamen and Dr. Erik Constance could also be invited to participate at that time or at a future time. Dr. Campbell did hear from Dr. Constance that he liked the RPC suggestions given in December and that he planned on implementing all that did not require additional monies.

Dr. McAsey moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Premkumar seconded the motion. The motion was adopted and the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.