

RESEARCH POLICY COMMITTEE

October 13, 2008

3:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Sukesh Bhaumik, PhD
Mark Johnson, MD
Teresa Liberati, PhD
Paula Mackrides, DO
Joseph Milbrandt, PhD
Peter Patrylo, PhD
Sophia Ran, PhD, Vice Chair
Laura Rogers, MD
Steven Verhulst, PhD

ABSENT:

Mary McAsey PhD
Kathleen Campbell, PhD, Chair
Don Scott, MD
Prema Narayan, PhD
Louis Premkumar, PhD

Ex-Officio Members:

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

Vice Chair Sophia Ran called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm. Once a quorum was established, Dr. Joseph Milbrandt moved to approve the August 11, 2008 minutes as mailed. Dr. Mark Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was adopted.

Translational Research Symposium

Dr. Linda Toth asked for feedback from the RPC on the Translational Research Symposium as there was not a good turnout from the faculty at the symposium last year. Some suggestions given were:

- plan a two-day event in the Spring
- limit the topic to one area, i.e. cancer, neurology, breast cancer, etc.
- fit the symposium into a time slot already reserved for faculty meetings, i.e. grand rounds
- offer CME credits
- change the location
- ask for RSVPs
- communicate to the faculty in a variety of ways; don't rely on just emails

It was decided to not have the Translational Research Symposium this year. Dr. Toth will bring the symposium up next year to the committee to see if there is more interest.

EAM Near Miss Submission Deadlines

Dr. Ran began the discussion by revisiting the deadline dates for submissions to the EAM Near Miss Awards which are in June and October. These deadline dates are not evenly distributed throughout the year. Dr. Ran proposed that these deadline dates be changed to correlate with the three cycles of grant submission to NIH that correspond to three annual anticipated times of receiving the critique. Alternatively, Dr. Ran proposed to equate the EAM Near-Miss policy to that of CRC Near-Miss that states that "the application must be submitted within 12 months of the date of the critiques". Much discussion followed with references to when the NIH critiques are available, as well as when the monies are received. Dr. Rogers made a motion to increase the time limit for submission of the EAM Near Miss Awards from six to nine months from the receipt of the NIH critique. Dr. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Space Allocation

The question raised at the September meeting was, 'Should Carbondale faculty be included in the review protocol'? Carbondale was asked to provide an update at the October meeting. Carbondale stated that this was not brought up at their faculty meeting. However, when their new Physiology Chairman visits next month, this issue will be presented to him. It was noted that the Anatomy Department is not represented on the RPC. It will be represented with the new committee members coming on board.

Dr. Ran stated that all the surveys in Springfield have been collected. When Dr. Campbell returns, she will call a meeting to review them.

Clinical Research Fees

Dr. Sandra Puczynski was asked to discuss how rates are negotiated for clinical research. SIU does have an agreement (that is renewed every year) with MMC and SJH. The agreement provides a 40% discount on any research related procedure. This was first negotiated two years ago and is an excellent rate. Other institutions do not receive as high of a reduction as SIU receives. There are some restrictions on what can be offered due to the fine line of what would constitute a 'kick back'. The hospitals are tied by variable deals and must be consistent with their rates. These rates can change on a daily basis. A way needs to be determined on how to post this information for easy access. Dr. Puczynski did caution what researchers want to ask for their research – deeper discounts or items that would help in their research.

Dr. Johnson provided an example of a metabolic cart. A grant paid for the cart, but P&S charges for the use of this cart with patients. This would be a process problem, not a policy issue. This problem needs to be articulated with P&S to find out whom to address to help resolve/negotiate discounted/alternate fees for research.

It was asked if the bank bailout would adversely affect the amount of monies available for research in the future. There was some discussion with the consensus being that this would not be an issue.

It was suggested that a future GOBBL session be devoted to summarizing the changes in NIH guidelines for grant application submission, providing different views and a question and answer session regarding strategies in research funding.

The meeting adjourned at 4:33 pm.