

MINUTES

Research Strategic Advisory Council

Wednesday, June 29, 2016

4:00pm – 5:00pm

302 AAB

Members Present: Andrea Giuffrida, Mike Beckstead, Carrie Jo Braden, Charles France, Christopher Green, Erzsebet Kokovay, Alexander Pertsemliadis, Jennifer Potter and Kyumin Whang

Members Absent: Reto Asmis, Robert Clark, Byron Hepburn, Maureen Simmonds, Rajeshwar Tekmal and Ian Thompson

Minutes from 5/19/16 to be approved at next meeting

Intramural and limited funding opportunities

Limited funding opportunities require the institution to select and submit one or a designated number of applications. All limited submission applications are reviewed by the Office of the VPR and Dr. Giuffrida noted if the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) receives more than one application, the Office of the VPR appoints an ad hoc committee to review and select the application(s) to be forwarded to the funding source.

Dr. Potter reviewed several of the top universities across the nation on how they handle limited funding opportunities. Her review included:

1. UC San Francisco <http://rdo.ucsf.edu/limited-submission-program-lsp> (they have an online calendar for upcoming opportunities)
2. Northwestern <https://ord.northwestern.edu/limited-submissions>
3. University of Pennsylvania http://www.upenn.edu/research/smarts/limited_institutional_applications/
4. Harvard University <http://research.fas.harvard.edu/apply-funding>

Dr. Potter noted that the three common elements of these programs included: 1) a description of the application process online that indicated whom candidates needed to talk to get questions answered and a chart of the process flow; 2) a calendar of the funding opportunities offered by the sponsors; 3) mentorship and support available to the candidates to prepare their application.

Dr. Potter is working on an aggregate excel list of limited funding opportunities that provides: opportunity name, funding amount, anticipated deadline, research category, key words and eligibility. Dr. Potter recommends to develop a HSC webpage for limited submissions that includes a list of the opportunities as well as outreach and educational resources. Dr. Potter's slide presentation will be forwarded to the council for review and feedback on what should be included on the website. *Dr. Giuffrida will discuss with Dr. Mark Nijland and OSP and will follow-up at the next meeting. Chris Green will follow-up with the success rate on limited submissions.*

Visit from Manatt, Phelps & Phillips consultants

Dr. Giuffrida reported that the institution, under the leadership of Gayle Knight (Assistant Vice President, Office of Strategic Planning & Institutional Analysis), has hired a consulting firm (Manatt, Phelps and Phillips) to facilitate the planning process for developing the 2018-2022 strategic plan. The consultants have met with a Steering Committee (see below) and they are planning to meet with the Research Strategic Advisory Council (RSAC), which will serve as the "Research Working Group". The consultants will have two three-hour meetings with the group to identify research areas of strength. Specific plans to further develop these areas will be developed and further discussed by "focus groups" to be appointed by the RSAC. The dates for the Research Working Group meetings chaired by Dr. Giuffrida have been set for July 26th from 9am – 11am in the SOM Dean's Conference Room and August 8th from 2pm – 5pm in the President's Conference Room.

The Strategic Planning Project objectives include: 1) Identify and articulate the enterprise's strategic themes for 2018-2022; 2) Drive alignment of vision, priorities, and activities of all UTHSCSA entities; 3) Define goals, strategies, and tactics necessary to pursue its mission and vision; 4) Determine financial requirements for achieving the defined goals and an associated implementation plan.

The Steering Committee includes 25 people: William Henrich, Michael Black, Eileen Breslin, William Dodge, Francisco Gonzalez-Scarano, David Shelledy, David Weiss, Andrea Marks, Andrea Giuffrida, Jennifer Potter, Jacqueline Mok, Deborah Morrill, Yeman Collier, Heather Adkins, Gayle Knight, Jack Park, Paolo Casali, Manzoor Bhat, Alan Frazer, Daniel Johnson, Robert Quinn, Ron Rodriguez, Carlos Rosende, John Gebhard and Byron Hepburn.

Institutional Research Core changes (UCRF, external committee, new director)

Dr. Giuffrida reported that the Office of the VP for Research is in the process of hiring a new Director of the Institutional Research Cores to replace Dr. Mike Wilson who accepted an offer in Austin a few months ago. A national search has been opened and the search committee chaired by Dr. Mark Nijland has identified three PhD candidates with a strong background in life sciences. The first round of interviews was carried out via teleconferences, whereas the second round will be in person to allow the candidates to meet the core directors and visit the core facilities. Currently, an Internal Committee called the University Core Research Facility Committee (UCRF) reviews the budget and operations of the cores and submits recommendations to Dr. Giuffrida. The RSAC committee pointed out that there is a need to develop metrics and requirements to justify the "institutional" status of a research core and create a mechanism to allow new departmental cores to compete for institutional status.

Science Incubator

The Office of the VP for Research has hired Carol Lauffer, a consultant specialized in business incubation/acceleration and technology commercialization. She is currently interviewing the director and staff in the Office of Technology Commercialization, HSC faculty, people in the business community and City Development Office. She has been asked to assess: A) if the HSC would benefit from a science incubator supporting spin off companies; B) Office and wet lab space needed for the incubator; C) Work flow, operating costs and business model; D) if the incubator should include HSC startups only or external companies as well.

Ms. Lauffer will complete her review by the end of August and provide a business plan by early October. This plan will be presented to the HSC Executive leadership and potential San Antonio investors who have expressed an interest in this type of enterprise. Dr. Giuffrida will also ask her to present the business plan to RSAC. *(Update: RSAC members were emailed on July 21st and invited to attend the presentation of the business plan by Carol Lauffer on Tues, Oct 11th from 11:30am – 12:30pm in the Howe Conference Room in the Briscoe Library/5th floor).*

Electronic COP

Dr. Giuffrida discussed the idea of developing an electronic version of the Certificate of Proposal (COP) used by the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP). This could speed up grant oversight/approval by OSP and allow other types of assessments by the VPR Office (i.e., "feasibility assessments" of clinical studies, budget requirements, etc.).

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm