University Research Council

Minutes of September 19, 2019 Meeting

Members Present: *Rob Rutenbar, Senior Vice Chancellor for Research; Mike Holland, Vice Chancellor for Science Policy and Research Strategy; Mark Anderson, Department of English; Karen Arndt, Department of Biological Sciences; Velpandi Ayyavoo, Graduate School of Public Health; Debbie Brake, School of Law; Robert B. Gibbs, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences; Kent Harries, School of Engineering; Alexandria Harris, Graduate and Professional Student Government Board; Stephen Hirtle, School of Computing and Information; Holger Hoock, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research, School of Arts and Sciences; Neil Hukriede, Department of Developmental Biology; William Layton, Department of Mathematics; Jeremy Somers, Office of Research, Health Sciences; Steven Stern, University of Pittsburgh Johnstown; Alexandre Vieira, School of Dental Medicine; Kacey Marra, School of Medicine; Frits Pil, Katz Graduate School of Business*

Members Absent: *Yvette Conley, School of Nursing; Marek Druzdzel, School of Computing and Information; Heidi Ann Scharf Donovan, School of Nursing; William Dunn, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs; Shaun Eack, School of Social Work; Raymond Engel, School of Social Work; Julie Fiez, Department of Psychology; Sean Kelly, School of Education; Matthew Kropf, University of Pittsburgh Bradford; Anne Robertson, School of Engineering; Margaret Rosenzweig, School of Nursing; Susan Sereika, Department of Health and Community Systems; Peijun Zhang, Department of Structural Biology; Elizabeth Monasterios, Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures; Stephen Weber, Department of Chemistry; Jennifer Woodward, Vice Chancellor for Research Operations; Brian Galla, School of Education; N. John Cooper, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research;*

1. **Welcome and Announcements**

   Dr. Rob Rutenbar welcomed the Council members and called the meeting to order at 12:07pm.

2. **April 16, 2019 URC Meeting Minutes**

   The April meeting minutes had been circulated to the Council and were approved *nem con*.

3. **Updates**

   Dr. Rutenbar gave an update on Intellectual Property policy changes, noting that a new framework has been introduced. There is an IP Policy committee in place with broad representation from across university, co-chaired by Professor Adam Liebovich, Associate Dean for Research in the Dietrich School, and Rory Cooper, a Distinguished Professor in the School of Health and Rehabilitative Sciences and Director of the Human

Engineering Research Laboratory. The plan is to have a draft of the new policy at the end of semester. This will go out on a website for public commentary, followed by meetings to discuss next steps. Hopefully we will have a solid policy in place by end of academic year. Dr. Rutenbar noted that things are going very well so far.

Dr. Rutenbar gave an update on the revision of the consulting policy (external activities), noting that there is a lot of overlap with our Conflict of Interest policies. He noted that the current consulting policy was written in 1988 and is only ~500 words long, leaving some things out that should be there. Provost Ann Cudd and Dr. Rutenbar are co-leading recruiting for this committee and are looking for wide range of input from many different disciplines, from all different ranks.

4. **Update on COIR Disclosure Committee**

Dr. Rutenbar mentioned that there is a short-term committee currently working on redesigning the COI disclosure mechanism, as the current mechanism is rather dated and is focused on only a narrow slice of the Pitt community. Dr. Rutenbar noted that it will be replaced by a web form and that they are working on making a database to enable more streamlined routing. They are looking to ask as few questions as possible to get the needed info.

5. **Pitt Momentum Funds**

Dr. Mike Holland gave a presentation on Pitt's new Momentum Funds. He noted that the SVCR and Provost are putting significant resources into this new funding model that will enable researchers to put together teams and go after larger grants as well as scaling grants. He noted that teaming grants will require investigators from multiple schools, and that one can be community member outside of Pitt (though not faculty at another university).

It was noted that Med School faculty will be able to participate in Teaming and Scaling grants but not the Seeding grants.

It was noted that SSOE has Teaming grants as well, but that it is not an issue to have proposals for both.

It is still being worked out specifically who will review proposals for these grants.

Dr. Holland also noted that they will be restructuring and redefining Seeding Grants in order to streamline the proposal requirements.

6. **Revised Guidelines for CDRA**

    Dr. Rutenbar noted that we are going to be restructuring the Chancellor's Distinguished Research Awards. He noted that these awards are currently dominated by STEM/Health Sciences and that we want to send a signal that awards are there for everyone. Under the new structure, with preference for review within three separate tracks: one for arts/humanities/etc. (including law), one for STEM, and one for health sciences. We will also be paring down nominations to 1 page of why, a 1-page bio-sketch, 1 recommendation, and reference letters. The hope is that this will result in more nominations.

7. **Any other business**

    There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.