

Minutes
Executive Subcommittee of the
Medical Education and Research Committee (MERC)
April 7, 2008 at 5:00pm – Room 4141 HSLC

Members Present: Bill Busse, Paul DeLuca (chair), Norm Drinkwater, Susan Goelzer, Jeff Grossman, Pat Remington, George Wilding

Members Absent: Cindy Haq

Guest: Robert Golden (phone)

Staff: Tracy Cabot, Ken Mount, Tonya Mathison, Eileen Smith

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm.

1. Approval of March 3, 2008 minutes

The Executive Subcommittee unanimously approved the draft minutes of March 3, 2008.

2. Announcements

There were no announcements.

3. Discuss proposal for “Recruitment of Middle-Aged African-Americans for Studies of Preclinical Alzheimer’s Disease: Development of a Minority Recruitment Model in Milwaukee” (Principal Investigator: Mark Sager, MD)

Following a discussion with Dean Robert Golden of the proposal *Recruitment of Middle-Aged African-Americans for Studies of Preclinical Alzheimer’s disease: Development of a Minority Recruitment Model in Milwaukee*, the Subcommittee recommended supporting the development of a shared service minority recruitment core in the SMPH to ensure adequate minority participation in future research protocols, as well as existing funded programs, such as SHOW and WiNHR. The Subcommittee recommended that MERC support this effort in partnership with the Dean’s Strategic Initiative, the Institute of Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR), and the Center for Urban Population Health (CUPH).

The Subcommittee suggested jump-starting the development of the minority recruitment core by providing \$250,000 over one year for Mark Sager’s Alzheimer’s disease proposal. The Subcommittee supported approving a one-time increase of the Dean’s Strategic Fund by \$250,000 for purpose of leveraging funds committed to the proposal by the Helen Bader Foundation.

4. Discuss changes to the 2008 New Investigator Program Request for Proposals

The Subcommittee recommended the following revisions to the New Investigator Program (NIP) Request for Proposals (RfP):

- Introduction: “MERC is seeking creative research and education proposals that span the spectrum of basic science, clinical science, **or** population health sciences.”
- Timetable: Release the RfP in June with applications due in August, interviews in November, and awards in December.
- Review Criteria: Reorder, starting with “The project addresses the Mission, Vision, and Guiding Principles of the WPP” and “The project is innovative and has outstanding merit” Combine the third and sixth criterion to read, “The project describes the process by which successful execution of this research or education intervention could be translated into improved health of the people of Wisconsin.”

5. Strategic Planning for Five-Year Plan 2009-2014

The Subcommittee supported developing a decision-making process related to renewal of grants awarded during the initial five year plan by the MERC and by the Dean of the SMPH through the Strategic Fund. A draft policy will be presented to MERC in April.

6. Discuss interim progress reports:

Human Proteomics Program

Bill Busse and Norm Drinkwater gave an overview of the interim progress report for Jeff Walker’s, PhD, project “Human Proteomics Program”. The Executive Subcommittee was pleased with progress on the objective to establish educational programs. The Subcommittee was interested in getting more information on the plans for becoming self sufficient, including data on the core users of the facility and the user fees. There was concern that current user fees may not be sufficient to effect the revenue stream which was envisioned in the original budget. Walker will present a progress report at the April MERC meeting.

Reducing Cancer Disparities through Comprehensive Cancer Control

Bill Busse gave an overview of the interim progress report for Jim Cleary’s, MD, project “Reducing Cancer Disparities through Comprehensive Cancer Control”. Since the Executive Subcommittee found it difficult to understand the scope and effectiveness of the program, the committee requested that Cleary resubmit the progress report including a brief overview of the entire program followed by a detailed description of the specific goals and objectives covered by MERC funding, including the accomplishments to date. Additionally, the Subcommittee was concerned about the progress of the two projects funded by MERC – the Milwaukee Regional Cancer Care Network, and Community-based Participatory Partnerships with Underserved/Minority Populations. Cleary will be asked to present the revised progress report at the MERC meeting on May 12.

7. Adjournment-Closed Session: Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1) (c), (e) and (f) to consider the evaluation and selection of nominees to serve as expert reviewers for the competitive Medical Education and Research Committee Collaborative Health Sciences Program. The meeting is not expected to reconvene into open session.

The Subcommittee agreed to adjourn into closed session, pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1) (c), (e) and (f) to consider the evaluation and selection of nominees to serve as expert reviewers for the competitive Medical Education and Research Committee Collaborative Health Sciences Program.

The meeting did not reconvene into open session.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison