

Minutes

UW School of Medicine and Public Health Medical Education and Research Committee 5:00 PM February 28, 2007 – Room 4201 Health Sciences Learning Center

Members Present: Sanjay Asthana, Bill Busse, Molly Carnes, Cindy Czajkowski, Paul DeLuca, Norm Drinkwater, Maureen Durkin, Jeff Grossman, Susan Goelzer, Tom Grist, Rick Moss, Javier Nieto, Greg Nycz, Mary Beth Plane, Patrick Remington, Susan Skochelak, Jeff Stearns, George Wilding

Members Absent: Dave DeMets, Gordon Ridley

Guests: Robert Golden

Staff: Tracy Cabot, Ken Mount, Tonya Paulson, Eileen Smith, Karla Thompson

The Committee was called to order by Vice Dean Paul DeLuca at 5:07 p.m.

1. The draft minutes from the December 11, 2006 and January 8, 2007 MERC meetings were presented. No modifications were suggested and both sets of the minutes were approved unanimously.
2. Announcements: Eileen Smith announced that an outline for the 2006 Annual Report was included in the meeting materials. The first draft will be circulated prior to the April MERC meeting. She asked that members read the draft report and send any questions or comments to her prior to the April 9 meeting, because the report must be approved by MERC at the April meeting. After approval by OAC, the Annual Report will be submitted to the Board of Regents for approval at its May meeting, and sent to WUHF for action in June. Assuming a successful review by WUHF, the restrictions will be lifted from the remaining funds.

Smith also announced that we have contracted with Dick Reynolds to perform a pre-audit of the Wisconsin Partnership Program. Reynolds is a former UWHC administrator. He will pay particular attention to governance and management of the WPP. Reynolds has already met with the Executive Subcommittee, and he will be meeting individually with some MERC members. We hope to receive his report in the near future.

Smith reported that the 4th cycle of the New Investigator Program was announced in late January. A training session for applicants has already been held; applications are due in late March. MERC will interview the finalists on June 11, and make final funding decisions in July. The 5th cycle of the NIP will be immediately released in late July or August. Smith noted that we need additional reviewers for the Application Review Subcommittee, particularly in the areas of stem cells, imaging, biostatistics, education,

pediatrics, and medical microbiology. She asked MERC members to send her suggestions for reviewers.

Smith reminded MERC members that they are responsible for coordinating the comments on the Collaborative Health Sciences Program proposals that were triaged in the stage I review (Groups A, B, and C). So far, we have received the comments from only 4 MERC members; she asked the other 16 members to submit their reports ASAP.

Finally, Smith announced that Susan Goelzer was elected chair of OAC at the February meeting. Other officers are Vice-chair Doug Mormann and Secretary Lorraine Lathen.

4/5. DeLuca suggested combining two agenda items. A portion of the MERC Executive Committee meeting was spent discussing a request from the Human Proteomics program that is outlined on page 4 of the draft minutes of the Committee. Jeff Walker, the Director of the Human Proteomics program, wrote a letter to MERC requesting funding for installation of the mass spectrometer, first at MSC, then later at the IRC. The Executive Subcommittee recommended that we handle the installation at MSC first, and revisit the IRC request later as appropriate.

Mary Beth Plane asked about the cost; DeLuca said that it will be between \$50-100,000. Goelzer asked what was the original budget for the Human Proteomics grant, and DeLuca responded that it was approximately \$1 million. Rick Moss added that the original budget did not include the cost of installation of the equipment. George Wilding moved that we provide funding for the installation at MSC, and Norm Drinkwater seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention.

3. Goelzer reported on OAC's 7 hour strategic planning retreat on February 21. The meeting opened with Dean Golden's remarks about the WPP and its role in transformation of the school. He emphasized the importance of the joint OAC-MERC meeting, and suggested that we should continue to hold joint meetings. Goelzer said that the strategic planning retreat focused on what the WPP is trying to accomplish. This included an assessment of the success of the Community-Academic Partnership grants program, review of the allocation percentages, and beginning discussions about the next 5 year plan.

OAC members discussed providing support for faculty salaries on the community-academic partnership grants. They feel strongly that providing salary support will increase and strengthen faculty participation. OAC also discussed the fact that the first grantees are reaching the end of their 3 year implementation grants, and that it may be necessary to develop a new competitive program for "continuation" grants. OAC discussed opportunities for collaboration between OAC and MERC.

After a financial presentation by Karla Thompson, OAC discussed what to do with the available cash due to slower than anticipated ramp-up of the grants. They would like to develop a longer term strategic investment project, which might target certain public health topics. However, OAC members recognized the need for greater expertise in

determining what areas would be most appropriate to target. They have decided to develop a process to study where to make strategic investments, and report back in 6 months.

OAC also discussed what information is necessary to make the annual allocation decision, which will occur in March.

6. Goelzer moved that pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1) (c), (e), and (f), that MERC adjourn into closed session to determine the faculty finalists for the Medical Education and Research Committee competitive Collaborative Health Sciences Program Awards. Busse seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Guests were asked to leave the room.

DeLuca outlined the review process. The proposals were discussed. At the conclusion of the discussion, MERC members voted for the finalists to be interviewed.

The meeting reconvened into open session and adjourned immediately at 7:45 p.m. adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by:
Tracy L. Cabot, Recorder