Committee on Research
Edward L. Murphy, MD, MPH Chair

MINUTES
Monday, June 15, 2009


The Committee on Research was called to order by Chair Murphy on June 15, 2009 at 10:04 a.m. in room S-30. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the May 18, 2009 minutes were approved.

Chair’s Report
Chair Murphy made these announcements:
- Due to budget restraints, the Senate Office was unable to fund 13 grants as originally hoped. The total grants funded for the last cycle is 8.
- He thanked the Committee for their participation and hard work this year.

Follow up Report on the Research Allocation Program (RAP)
Fredric Waldman, MD, PhD – Steering Committee Member
F. Waldman gave an overview of the origins of the RAP program. He shared that initially, identity and autonomy were also big concerns, but all of the research entities worked together to come up with a negotiated compromise.

Dan Lowenstein, MD – Steering Committee Member
D. Lowenstein added that when developing RAP, developers were trying to address the difficulty investigators have navigating intramural funding at the university because of its complexity. D. Lowenstein remarked upon some of the successes of the integration:
- RAP is a one place stop for investigators that is easy to understand and transparent.
- Fairness. His experience has always been that there is not the requisite amount of experience to fairly evaluate applications. In a sense, the integration has created study sections.
- This system has made it more efficient in terms of funds because previously, there was cross-body reporting. An investigator could have been funded by multiple entities without other bodies ever knowing.

Paul Volberding, MD – Steering Committee Member
P. Volberding, Chair of the Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) gave background and his impressions of the partnership with RAP. CFAR awards approximately one million dollars a year – most are pilot grants.
Initially, he was enthused with the prospect of streamlining the grant process, but concerned with the possible loss of identity. On of the major factors in alleviating this concern is that CFAR makes the final decision and is the body that contacts the investigators. The investigators are not contacted by RAP. He echoed F. Waldman’s sentiments that the partnership has reduced work campus-wide and improved the quality of reviews.

**Susan Autry – Executive Director, Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI)**

S. Autry presented the the background, structure, and administrative components of RAP.

**Discussion**

- J. Moskowitz expressed that RAP amounted to a one-shot deal and that there might be someone on COR who might be more sympathetic towards that investigator’s research endeavor. D. Lowenstein stressed that the depth of review will always be better on RAP.

- P. McQuiillen countered that to a certain extent, COR membership and thereby review is luck of the draw. He remains unconvinced that the random composition of COR will lead to stronger reviews than a group that has been strategically put together.

- D. Saloner commented that as a reviewer, it is of benefit to see applications from all departments as it promotes collaboration.

- Cuenco made the point that we reviewed many grants this year that wouldn’t fit into any of those categories.

- Some suggested a pilot with the Shared Equipment Grant.

- R. Henry suggested that one person from COR should be on each review committee. That way, each representative can report back to COR.

- M. Johnson pointed out that if the Vice Chancellor of Research compels us to join RAP, it would be in our best interest to be one step ahead.

- T. Alliston recommended using the RAP infrastructure while retaining our committee.

**Action:** The Committee moved to pursue integration negotiations with RAP, provided COR remains a part of the Executive Committee and is allowed to designate a COR member to sit on each of the study sections. A subcommittee will be formed to solicit remaining objections and to draft a proposal for the next COR meeting. In the interim, the Senate Office Staff will work to cut out paper as part of the review process.

The RAP subcommittee will be chaired by David Saloner. Members of the subcommittee are Dejana Braithwaite, Kevin Delucchi, Macleod Griffith.

**Selection of the Distinguished Clinical Research Lecturer**

Due to time constraints, the committee was unable to review nominees for the lectureship. The analyst will poll the committee for availability to meet on July 13, 27, or 29.

**Report from the Subcommittee on Translational Research Lecture**

R. Henry again reviewed the changes to the draft guidelines and asked the Committee for a vote. The Committee unanimously approved the draft guidelines and recommended that the guidelines be forwarded to the Coordinating Committee for approval.
Old Business
None.

New Business
None.

There being no further business, Chair Murphy adjourned the meeting at noon.