

University Research Council

Minutes of October 22, 2018 meeting

Members Present: N. John Cooper, Deputy VC-Research; Jennifer Woodward, VC-Research Operations; Kent Harries, Prof-School of Engineering; Debbie Brake, Associate Dean-School of Law; Alexandre Vieira, Prof-School of Dental Medicine; Brian Galla, Assistant Prof-School of Education; Sean Kelly, Prof-School of Education; Jeremy Somers, Scientific Director-OORHS; Neil Hukriede, Associate Prof and Vice Chair-School of Medicine; Stephen Hirtle, School of Computing and Information; Frits Pil, Prof-Katz Graduate School of Business; Alexandria Harris, Graduate and Professional Student Government Board/URC Graduate Student Representative; Shaun Eack, School of Social Work; Kacey Marra Associate Prof-School of Medicine; Yvette Conley, Prof and VC-Research-School of Nursing; Elizabeth Monasterios, Prof-School of Arts and Sciences

Members Absent: Rob Rutenbar, SVCR and Chair; Velpandi Ayyavoo, Prof and Associate Dean-Graduate School of Public Health; Mark Anderson, Associate Prof-School of Arts and Sciences; Karen Arndt, Prof-School of Arts and Sciences; Stephen Weber, Prof-School of Arts and Sciences; Holger Hooch, Prof and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research-School of Arts and Sciences; Marek Druzdel, Prof-School of Computing and Information; Julie Fiez, Prof & Chair-School of Arts and Sciences; Anne Robertson, Prof-School of Engineering; William Layton, Prof-School of Arts and Sciences; Steven Stern, Prof and Chair-University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown; William Dunn, Prof-Graduate School of Public and International Affairs; Peijun Zhang, School of Medicine; Robert Gibbs, Prof-School of Pharmacy; Raymond Engel, Associate Prof-School of Social Work; Matthew Kropf, Assistant Prof-University of Pittsburgh at Bradford; Susan Sereika, Prof-School of Nursing

Dr. N. John Cooper welcomes everyone and calls the meeting to order at 12:15 pm.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Cooper explained that Dr. Rutenbar is out of town and had asked him to chair the meeting. Members of the Council introduced themselves.

2. September 25, 2018 meeting minutes

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

3. Announcements

Dr. Cooper announced that Dr. Michael Holland had been recruited into a new position as Vice Chancellor for Science Policy and Research Strategies, beginning today. Dr. Holland has most recently been Executive Director of the Center for Urban Science + Progress at NYU. His expertise is heavily at the “macro” science policy level, engaging critical stakeholder and funding communities at the national level. He has held positions at the U.S. Department of Energy, the White House Offices of Science & Technology Policy, and the White House office of Management & Budget.

Dr. Rutenbar is convening a new faculty/staff Committee to review and recommend changes in the University’s IP policy. The co-Chairs of this Committee will be Distinguished Professor Rory Cooper, Director of the Human Engineering Research Laboratories, and Professor Adam Leibovich, Associate Dean for Faculty Recruitment and Research Development in the Dietrich

School of Arts and Sciences. The Committee will be examining existing policies 11-02-01 on Patent Rights and Technology Transfer and 11-02-02 on Copyrights, which may be combined into a single Intellectual Property Policy.

4. Changes in Bayh-Dole Compliance Requirements

In the September URC meeting, Dr. Rutenbar had explained that compliance with changes in the Bayh-Dole regulations created a need for University employees supported by federal grants and contracts to make present assignment of IP to the University (assignment, in the present moment, of intellectual property rights that will be created by future subject inventions under the federal funding agreement). Discussions with the Senate Research Committee have almost concluded, and will lead to reintroduction of the system in place until August 2018 in which employees will be able to comply through signing the Option 1 or Option 2 forms introduced in October 2014 or a new version of Option 3 revised to make it compliant with the Bayh Dole regulations (Option 3 Bayh-Dole).

5. Expanding Beyond STEM

Dr. Rutenbar has a strong sense he was hired to be Senior Vice Chancellor for Research not just for the STEM and medicine side, but also for the arts, humanities, social sciences, business, law, etc. Dr. Cooper shared a slide that Dr. Rutenbar presented at the Chairs and Associate Deans meeting about the creation of a Rotating (3-year appt), part-time (teaching release + summer) appt in OSVCR to help him connect with non-STEM areas of scholarship: arts, humanities, social sciences, and non-STEM professional schools. Dr. Cooper asked for comments, and members of Council strongly supported the concept, commenting that the arts and humanities do not know how the funded-research side of the University works. There is a need for someone who will think about this strategically: look across disciplines, step back, and ask what is common across these disciplines and how they can be moved forward.

6. Current Seed funding and ideas for cross disciplinary seed funding discussion.

Dr. Cooper presented another of Dr. Rutenbar's slides that summarized current seed support mechanisms. Humanities support has increased from \$53.4K in AY17 to \$131K in AY18, with 41 proposals submitted and 30 funded. Social Science support was funded at \$206K in AY18, with 8 proposals submitted and 5 funded. General CRDF funding was at \$547.6K in AY18, with 51 proposals submitted and 37 funded. He concluded that there is a fair bit of seed money going out. A member of Council added that the competitive medical research fund has \$400K a year and they get 45 applications of which they support half on an annual basis across the health sciences.

Dr. Cooper stated that Dr. Rutenbar is thinking about a larger cross-disciplinary seed funding program that would provide multi-investigator support over several years and that would require that investigators work across multiple schools. This would be complemented by a "Big Proposal' Bootcamp," a workshop series with a broad focus on funding sources, building teams, organizing proposals and managing projects as they are funded.

Members of Council commented on both these ideas. It was pointed out that cross disciplinary seed funding is available in the health sciences and that the key to success is to make sure that applications are consistent with programmatic goals; people see this as free money when not it's not. Dr. Neil Hukriede asked if the university has the infrastructure in place to manage these projects, and Dr. Woodward commented states that there a variety of pockets and resources but

that nothing brings them together. A concierge approach could be created to help connect all the pieces. Dr. Cooper added that such an approach would need a broad range of expertise. Questions were raised about the business model for a seed program. It was commented that the Clinical and Translational Science Institute offers a good model. There was general enthusiasm for both ideas.