

School of Medicine Research Coordinating Council (RCC)

Minutes for Thursday, December 7, 2006

8:00-9:00 a.m., 301 BRB II/III

Present: Gaulton, Strom, Schnall, Scott, Sehgal, Winston, Ahlborn, Passante, Pomager

Guests: Lisa Gould, Josh Meyer, Jan Norris

Absent: Drebin, Gur, Johnson, Kaestner, Lazar, Metlay, Rader

Agenda

• Update on Penn Medicine Research Space Planning

- Dr. Gaulton provided an update on the School's ongoing Research Space Planning efforts as outlined in the attached presentation. The online Faculty Survey has generated over 350 responses, and five leadership workshops have been completed with the department/center and institute representatives. Major emerging themes include: natural clusters of research disciplines that would benefit from co-location; several "bridging" disciplines that would need to be strengthened; the need to better define, organize and support clinical/patient-oriented research; and a high degree of interest/enthusiasm for collaborating with other schools. Dr. Gaulton requested that the committee members review the discipline mapping and co-location of the different clusters and to consider whether the labeling and grouping of these clusters were appropriate. Dr. Gaulton asked the Committee to consider discipline versus organ-based affinities, to contemplate how best to enact the clusters within a physical environment, and to forward any thoughts and/or ideas to either he and/or Dr. Strom. This information will be reviewed at the Faculty Leadership Retreat scheduled for December 15, 2006. The School of Medicine (SOM) will seek preliminary approval for the new research building from the Penn Medicine Trustee Board at their meeting in February and from the University Trustees at their meeting in March 2007. The SOM hopes to have final approval to proceed with design in June 2007.
- A meeting with other schools to review potential synergies and program/space opportunities is being scheduled for January 2007 and this initial phase of the Penn Medicine Research Space Planning process will culminate with a Towne Hall meeting for SOM faculty on January 10, 2007.
- The RCC members discussed and concluded that in order to optimize flexibility, the School should retain space throughout the SOM campus and adjacent to department, center and institute space. Chairs should be empowered and encouraged to make space decisions in a team approach with colleagues in other departments.
- Dr. Winston suggested the need for touch-down space for cross-disciplinary investigators, such as physician scientists, to encourage their participation in translational and interdisciplinary activities in other departments, and to provide access to the internet and e-mail while away from their primary offices. Dr. Sehgal noted that this would work better for clinicians and computational scientists whose work is computer-based and would not be as useful for basic scientists. Space planning should consider and remove the barriers to collaboration. Penn must also adapt and become proficient in using the electronic environment to create connectivity. This was viewed by

the Committee as being essential for engaging colleagues external to Penn and the US. Dr. Schnall also noted that state-of-the-art electronic video-conferencing would provide incredible flexibility to him as a physician-scientist and would save valuable time and resources.

- Further discussion was postponed until the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Pomager

The next RCC meeting will be held on Thursday, January 4, 2007 in 301 BRB II/III from 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Past Action Items:

Dr. Gaulton will discuss the potential for joint endowments with the clinical chairs.

Drs. Gaulton and Strom will discuss with the Dean the idea of increasing the number of endowed chairs for junior faculty, as well as soliciting and updated list of potential faculty candidates from the chairs.

Support for faculty in the area of childcare and auxiliary services.

Evaluation and improvement of the COAP process.

Dr. Gaulton would like to discuss the revisions of centers and institutes policies and then present at the SCDC meeting.

Drs. Irwin Levitan and Francisco Gonzalez-Scarano to return to review their proposal for a Comprehensive Neuroscience Center.

Dr. Goldman to return to discuss his proposal regarding nanobiology.

Revisit animal space constraints.

The Committee will also request that Dr. Trojanowski present the status of the IOA at a future meeting.

Drs. Gaulton, Strom, Rubenstein, Rustgi and Johnson will meet to discuss this joint structure and proposed funding for the Type II Center/Institute for Digestive, Liver and Pancreatic Medicine.