

## **School of Medicine Research Coordinating Council (RCC)**

Minutes for Wednesday, October 12, 2005

9:00-10:00 a.m., 301 BRB II/III

Present: Gaulton, Strom, Gur, Kaestner, Lazar, Metlay, Rader, Schnall, Sehgal, Simon, Gocke

Absent: Drebin

### **Agenda**

1. Discussion of the Committee charge
2. Faculty outreach and inclusion
3. Frequency of meetings
4. Open discussion items

### **Discussion of the Committee's tasks/charge**

Drs. Gaulton and Strom welcomed RCC members and discussed the Committee's tasks and charge. The RCC agreed to a focused assessment and update of the Research Strategic Plan, including the status of previous plans to advance new initiatives, and the consideration of new initiatives which may now be needed. In addition, the RCC will undertake a review of selected research-related processes, including the processes of the Recruitment Advisory Committee (RAC), which reviews and evaluates the quality of faculty appointments. Other processes to be reviewed include the promotion process, and the annual raise process. In addition, RCC will review any proposed Centers and Institutes.

Dr. Lazar questioned how Penn sees itself vis-à-vis its peers, and hoped to discuss the need for Institutes and Centers to be the intellectual center of science at Penn. Some of the RCC members noted their dissatisfaction with Centers and Institutes. All agreed that a review is needed of the administrative processes underlying the relationships between centers/institutes and departments, to be certain that our administrative processes did not impair collaboration. Dr. Strom asked that guidelines for Centers and Institutes and Penn's Strategic Plan for Research be forwarded to the RCC members for discussion at future meetings.

The RCC discussed "impact factor" as one way of measuring research excellence. Dr. Gaulton noted that the office of the Vice-Dean for Research and Research Training collects data regarding impact factor, and he noted the steady increase in appearance of papers from Penn in the 15 journals surveyed. This data will be shared with the RCC. It was mentioned that the impact factor of the work is paramount—not the impact of the journal, and indeed the entire process of measuring impact, which is broader than impact factor, needs to be considered by the RCC.

Other issues for future Committee consideration were: Genomics and Stem Cells as part of the Strategic Plan; a method to provide guidance and structure for shared discipline grants; and the generation of a definition of Systems Biology and its consideration in the Strategic Plan.

It was felt to be critical that the RCC process be as transparent as possible. Dr. Gaulton stated that his hope was that the RCC would be a place for all SOM researchers to address issues, and that the RCC would evolve as the needs of the research community change. Dr. Gaulton invited the Committee to send agenda items to Joan Gocke [gocke@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:gocke@mail.med.upenn.edu).

There was consensus that early-morning meetings would be held on a bi-weekly basis. A final meeting schedule will follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Gocke