

University of Memphis Research Council

Meeting Agenda

April 1, 2021

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Voting Members in Attendance: A. Allen, A. Fatemi, A. Rockinson-Szapkiw, A. Boykins, B. Pence, A. Waldron, C. Pierce, C. Langston, C. Preza, C. Jia, C. Havard, C. Chapell, D. Oller, D. Gray, L. Cummings, D. Dasgupta, E. Lindner, G. Emmert, G. Bowlin, H. Trieu, H. Zhang, J. Beck, J. Allen, J. Murphy, J. Dhaliwal, J. Johnson, J. Evans, K. Lambert-Pennington, K. Trump, L. Pichon, M. Amini, E. Jacobs, M. Gill, R. Paquette, L. McLean, M. Yeasin, R. Banai, R. Fisher, S. Mishra, S. Kumar, S. Potter, K. Kedia, S. Zanskas, T. Sutter

Others in Attendance: A. Olney, A. Curry, R. Jackson

Division Staff in Attendance: B. Jacobik, H. Yawn, L. Wright, L. Williams, L. Ingram, S. Thompson, C. Behles, M. Robertson, N. Saulsberry-Scarboro, E. Shaffer

Meeting Called to Order 2:30 p.m. Consideration of Minutes – October 29, 2020

Motion to approve minutes by G. Emmert and seconded by H. Cody. Council unanimously approved minutes.

Opening Remarks from Dr. Dhaliwal including R1 Update, NSF Funding News, and Message from CIO.

- Motion Item:
 - **Summary**
 - Dr. Dhaliwal reaffirmed that Carnegie R1 was the goal of the R&D division and the motivation for research leaders across campus. He updated the status of UM progress toward to R1, compared the 2018 ranking and 2021 ranking by putting the published data in the Carnegie Model, expressed great confidence that the UM would be in R1 this Fall based on the available data, appreciated Dr. Rudd for his supports on the R1 mission, and expected that UM could become R1 as Dr. Rudd's legacy before his step down.
 - **Motion 1a, 1b**
 - Dr. Santosh Kumar proposed a motion (1a) first to thank Dr. Rudd formally, second (1b) to communicate to the Board of Trustees by the search committee chair to consider R1 as a priority for hiring next President. Dr. Oller supported the motion, emphasized the importance of R1 mission to the priority for next President. Dr. Amini agreed,

pointed out the R1 mission was the direction to attract top President candidates. Dr. Jacobs proposed amendment to the motion.

- **Outcome**
 - Motion 1a was unanimously approved.
 - Motion 1b was approved with 35 yay, 0 nays, 1 abstention
- U.S. House of Representatives Science Committee Plan to Double NSF Funding. Dr. Dhaliwal briefly introduced the significant changes that the House planned to double NSF budget for research and created a new technology directorate SES (see AAAS article in materials). Call for taking advantage of the expansion budget to improve research capacity phenomenally. Explained the strategies and proceeding of research movement. For recurring funds, have cluster hiring in selected key cross-disciplinary areas, invite NSF personnel to help guide it, and build a good relationship with them. Use the non-recurring funds to improve research infrastructure. Mentioned that the governor was considering supporting UM by allocating funding for professorships.
- Message from Robert Jackson, Chief Information Officer. Dr. Jackson updated Information Technology Services (ITS) status, briefly introduced the units, roles, responsibilities, and activities that the ITS engaged into support research, expressed the willing to partner with researchers. He announced the upcoming projects including Bluejeans decommission this summer, Data Loss Prevention (DLP) initiative, and NIST 800-171 compliance, to provide additional support for the research community. Detailed introduced DLP and NIST 800-171 projects, each of their timelines, current status, next steps, and the directions of future plans. Reminded the importance of Business Continuity Planning, encouraged everyone to review IT security standards and guidelines, to complete the annual IT security awareness training, to forward suspicious email to them, and to contact IT service desk to get the best help. Dr. Dhaliwal thanked Dr. Jackson for his efforts and constant supports in research especially in the R1 progress, looked forward to the collaborations in research infrastructure. Dr. Kumar supported the Bluejeans decommission decision, asked whether interface like Box could be provided for researchers sharing data more easily and securely. Dr. Jackson pointed out that currently they didn't have any business agreements in place to require those companies to protect data stored on the unsanctioned services. He looked forward to figuring out some mechanism with some folks in the future. Dr. Kumar came out with another question whether the ITS had any plans to move toward the HIPPA compliance direction. Dr. Jackson indicated that the ITS collaborated with offices that trigger the HIPPA compliance rule, as well as experienced legal staff. Dr. Oller asked about the hacking incident. Dr. Jackson updated the status on that, stated the incident was solved. Dr. Dhaliwal thanked Dr. Jackson for catching that early and getting it solved. Dr. Gray asked whether the UM was moving towards zero trust policy, and how to implement that including implement that in the IT security training. Dr. Jackson explained that they were looking for a product of network access control to interface the UM network

equipment more closely. Dr. Zhang asked whether there was a plan to further upgrade HPC. Dr. Jackson illustrated the three-year lease agreement cycle and the challenge of buyout option. Dr. Dhaliwal suggested to take up HPC in a separate meeting and expected to do a significant change with HPC using the research funding. Any other questions for ITS, email Dr. Behles. (See materials.)

Division News and Upcoming Initiatives

- Research Development Update (Dr. Cody Behles). Dr. Behles briefly introduced some new programs, internal funding opportunities, updated outcomes from existing programs, mentioned website improvements and UM research statistics dashboard. Programs included NIH K Series Workshop, NSF Career Academy Expansion, Addressing Systemic Racism Through Research, Defense Research Engagement, INFER, PECIR, Fine arts, humanities, and social science grants, and Gap or Bridge Funding. Dr. Dhaliwal thanked Dr. Shaffer's support in last year's Defense Research Academy program, emphasized the significance of the strategic partnership with medical schools to improve research capacity to apply NIH funding, thanked Dr. Jacobs for his efforts on the first direct allocation in the last NDA Act. (see materials.) Contact Dr. Behles if interested in any of them.
- Office of Sponsored Programs (Stephanie Thompson). Stephanie gave an overview of the submitted COVID related research proposals, compared the submissions and awards of FY20 and FY21, which showed the expansion of research capacity in line with R1 goal, with the collaborations of the pre-award coordinators. Highlighted two proposals lead by Dr. Berisso and Matt Smeltzer. They received the first direct fundings to UM from DoL and CDC, built new relationships with federal sponsors. Introduced new NIH, NSF updates, OSP submission ability – they were transitioning their focus to research.gov. Mentioned the UM had been accepted into a three-year membership with FDP, which would streamline collaborations. Any demands contact the OSP team. (see materials.) Dr. Dhaliwal thanked Stephanie and the team for building the strong base for research across campus, thanked all faculty for their supports.
- Office of Research Compliance (Beverly Jacobik). Beverly reported some research compliance policy, institutional review board, and other ongoing activities updates. Dr. Dhaliwal congratulated the faculty members who led the RE 7006 faculty incentive compensation policy task force, for their efforts on this first policy change which showed an impact on research environment. Pointed out the role is to create a positive compliance environment where researchers have support. (See materials.)

Task Forces Updates/Reports

- Animal Care Facility Task Force (Dr. Amy Dejongh Curry). Dr. Curry reported their charge and progress of the animal care facility. She highlighted the facility successfully supported productive researchers and doubled external awards; the challenges were the limitation on infrastructure and environment control restricted the research capacity, resulted in funding and contracts loss; the budget requests were to modernize the facility and more spaces to move towards R1 institutions; the suggested strategic goals and actions to improve infrastructure and its capacity. Dr. Dhaliwal confirmed her report, suggested to self-invest or get federal allocation to ongoing support the facility. (See materials)
- Research Technology Advisory Committee (Dr. Gary Emmert made a statement on behalf of Dr. Hongmei Zhang). Dr. Emmert walked through ICShare, the formulation used to promote research collaboration and improve instrument equipment utilization for campus research; demonstrated the benefits of core research facilities; introduced the envision of ICShare structure, its operation model, membership selection, related rules, and the committee evaluations. Dr. Dhaliwal suggested to solve the maintain fees as part of R&D division costs, encouraged members to share this report to faculty then bring feedback this fall, expected to figure out some professional structured mechanisms for in line with R1 research mgmt. (See materials.)
- Teaching Buyout Policy Task Force (Dr. Andrew Olney & Dr. Kim Oller). Dr. Olney stated that the idea of the policy was to create a straightforward independent policy to incentivize externally supported research by setting a consistent threshold for buyout. He provided two threshold options to create flexibility for departments: 12.5%, which was consistent with the new faculty contracts, and a flexible threshold at the department or college level without exceeding 12.5%. Dr. Kumar suggested investigation of the impact of the options, to incorporate the efforts of managing grants into the policy, and to balance large funding contribution and teaching loads/buyout from the budget side. Dr. Olney explained some NSF rules that increased the complexity of the policy. Dr. Oller suggested making it a publicized default policy as a recruitment mechanism, and emphasized that the University of Memphis is rare in the combination of research incentives available to faculty. Dr. Kedia, Dr. Evans, and Dr. Dhaliwal all agreed that it was necessary to have a discussion within departments/colleges about finding a balance for this policy. Dr. Dhaliwal encouraged members to bring the feedback back in fall to refine and improve the policy as a motion. (See materials.)
- Tenure and Promotion Policy Revision Task Force (Dr. Santosh Kumar). Dr. Kumar reiterated the goal of this task force was aligning T&P guidelines to solid institution to improve R1 status. He listed the parts of recommendation to the broad guideline: set metrics to help explicitly recognize faculty's contributions based on the existing guidelines; refer to German university systems to provide regular promotion opportunities for faculty. Framework creation and budget implications would be the next issues expected to present in fall. Dr. Kedia stressed the rigor of the task force

process for R1 institutions and U.S. News rankings. Dr. Dhaliwal emphasized the key of R1 pursuit was to sustain it in a long run. Dr. Lambert-Pennington pointed out some departments might not meet the R1 contribution measurement by their discipline nature. Dr. Kumar explained there would be qualifiers to lead the criteria to the matrix. Dr. Dhaliwal emphasized the R1 measurement was to support all discipline as an ongoing policy, called for more discussion across colleges. (See materials.)

- Non-Reporting Active Task Forces
 - Strategic Research Plan (Dr. Brian Waldron)
 - Research Centers, Institutes and Labs (Dr. Chuck Langston)
 - Sponsored Programs, Grants, Contracts & Agreements (Dr. Alfred Hall)
 - Research Policies, Research Misconduct (Dr. Steve Zanskas)
 - Research Policies Intellectual Property (Dr. Gary Bowlin)
 - Export Controls Task Force (Dr. Steve Zanskas)

Dr. Dhaliwal encouraged members to provide inputs into these task forces which would help R1 institution, expected to hear them back in next meeting.

Call for New Task Forces

- Federal Funding Response Task Force
 - See AAAS Article in Materials

Dr. Dhaliwal proposed to set up a new task force to utilize the significant impacts of NSF in across-discipline research. Volunteers email Dr. Dhaliwal.

Open Forum / Other Business

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.