Members Present: Betty Chewning, Byron Crouse, Marc Drezner, Norm Drinkwater, Susan Goelzer, Robert Lemanske, Paul Moberg, Rick Moss, Greg Nycz, Tom Oliver, Pat Remington, Rod Welch

Members Absent: Craig Kent

Staff: Chris Blakey, Tonya Mathison, Mike Mirer, Ken Mount, Eileen Smith

Guests: Ron Cisler (CUPH), Stephen Percy (UW-Milwaukee School of Public Health), Christie Seibert (Department of Medicine)

1. Call meeting to order

Moss called the meeting to order at 5:10pm.

2. Announcements

2011 MERC meeting schedule
MERC meetings will continue to take place on the second Monday of each month in 2011, 5:00-7:00pm, in room 4201 of the Health Sciences Learning Center. The committee will not meet in March and August 2011. The annual joint meeting of the MERC and the Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) is scheduled on September 21, 2011.

Welcome new MERC member, Byron Crouse
Moss welcomed Byron Crouse who in his role as Interim Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs is filling the SMPH representative position left by Pat McBride.

Welcome Mary Jo Knobloch, Program Officer
Mary Jo Knobloch, MPH, CPH, was welcomed as the new Program Officer for the Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP). Knobloch comes to the WPP from the Marshfield Clinic, where she spent 20 years working on clinical research and adult education in a variety of capacities.

Update on New Investigator Program expert review
Drinkwater reported that full applications for the New Investigator Program were due in September. One of the 18 applicants invited to submit a full application withdrew. WPP leadership and staff assigned each of the 17 applications to two expert reviewers. Reviewers are currently independently evaluating their assigned applications and providing scores and comments. The Review Subcommittee will meet on October 27 to discuss the applications and to develop a ranked list for MERC’s consideration. In November, MERC will decide on the applicants to invite for interviews. MERC expects to make three awards following the interviews in December.
3. Approval of September 7, 2010 draft minutes

Drinkwater seconded a motion by Remington to approve the draft September 7, 2010 minutes. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Targeted interim progress report presentation, Transforming Medical Education: Integrating Public Health in the Curriculum

Christie Seibert, MD, presented an interim progress report for the 2009 Targeted RFA grant, “Transforming Medical Education: Integrating Public Health in the Curriculum”.

Lemanske and Remington presented their reviews of the interim progress report. Dr. Seibert is successfully addressing all three of the project’s specific aims. The integrative cases have been expanded and serve as a national model. Public health has been expanded into many of the third-year clerkships. And, significant progress has been made in adding public health content to the fourth-year electives. Core faculty with public health experience have been identified and serve as project leaders in curriculum development and implementation. Facilitators have been identified for the public health integrative cases in the first- and second-year, and work is underway to identify facilitators for the clinical clerkships and the fourth-year public health capstone projects. In response to administrative obstacles, a public health honors designation is being considered in place of the Public Health Certificate program.

Lemanske seconded a motion by Drinkwater to accept the interim progress report. There was general agreement by MERC that the project is successful with a clear return on investment. MERC shared the following feedback: (1) Define “public health” so as to better distinguish from “clinical medicine”, (2) Consider ways to broaden and compensate the base of faculty with public health experience, (3) Plan for sustainability of integrating cases, (4) Consider methods to evaluate public health competencies of faculty, (5) Given the lack of enthusiasm by MERC for honors program, the committee recommended working with the Educational Policy Council on further consideration of certificate program or other options. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

5. Targeted final report presentation, Center for Urban Population Health Public Health Development Plan

Ron Cisler, PhD, presented a final report on the 2006 Targeted RFA grant, “Center for Urban Population Health (CUPH) Public Health Development Plan”. The presentation included an update on the UW-Milwaukee School of Public Health by Steve Percy, PhD, Acting Dean.

Drezner and Remington indicated conflicts of interest as members of CUPH’s executive committee. Before leaving the room, they were asked by Moss to present their review of the final report. CUPH successfully accomplished the four specific aims of the project, primarily by
providing faculty salary support for UW-Milwaukee faculty, Aurora faculty and CUPH scientists and by expanding collaborations with UW SMPH faculty. Drezner and Remington left the room.

Nycz seconded a motion by Drinkwater to accept the final report. MERC shared the following feedback: (1) It is important to describe the expertise and skills that the faculty and staff supported by this project bring to benefit the people of the state of Wisconsin, (2) In order to gain better perspective regarding the extent of the project’s activities, more information on the collaborative projects with UW-Milwaukee and UW-Madison faculty would have been helpful. (3) MERC expressed on behalf of the UW SMPH interest in continuing collaborations in the future. The motion passed with nine affirmative votes. Drezner, Goelzer and Remington were not present for the discussion and vote.

6. Draft agenda for November 17, 2010 joint OAC/MERC strategic planning meeting

Moss and Smith presented the draft agenda for the November 17, 2010 Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP) strategic planning meeting, a joint meeting of MERC and OAC. Dean Golden will be chairing the meeting.

7. MERC cash flow and financial projections

Mount presented the financial projections for the Wisconsin Partnership Program through September 30, 2010. The projected value of the endowment is $292 million with a related cash balance of $31.4 million. WPP leadership and staff continue to carefully monitor the value of the endowment given the continued volatility in the financial markets.

Mount presented the financial projections for MERC through 2014, including analysis of net earnings on and distributions from the endowment, budgeted revenues and expenses, and the related cash balances. MERC discussed its spending policy based on various scenarios. This discussion will continue at the WPP strategic planning meeting in November.

8. Review draft Collaborative Health Sciences Program 2010-11 Request for Proposals

Moss and Smith presented the draft Collaborative Health Sciences Program 2010-11 Request for Proposals. Changes to the RFP are highlighted, including the submission and review dates. MERC expects to make two awards in September 2011. MERC’s approval of the RFP will be sought in November.

9. Oversight and Advisory Committee report

Nycz’s monthly OAC report was deferred to the November MERC meeting.
10. Discuss interim progress and final reports

Discussion of the interim progress and final reports was deferred to the November MERC meeting.

11. Adjourn – next meeting November 8, 2010

Moss adjourned the meeting at 7:35pm.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison