Members Present: Betty Chewning, Norm Drinkwater, Craig Kent, Robert Lemanske, Rick Moss, Greg Nycz (phone), Tom Oliver, Pat Remington, Rod Welch

Members Absent: Byron Crouse, Marc Drezner, Susan Goelzer, Paul Moberg

Staff: Cathy Frey, Tonya Mathison, Mike Mirer, Ken Mount, Eileen Smith

Invited guests: Brian Baldo (Psychiatry), Randall Brown (Family Medicine), Theresa Guilbert (Pediatrics), Zhen Huang (Neurology and Anatomy), Kevin Kozak (Human Oncology), Scott Nagle (Radiology), Deric Wheeler (Human Oncology)

1. Call meeting to order

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

2. Announcements

Release of 2010-11 Collaborative Health Sciences Program RFP
Moss reported that the 2010-11 Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Collaborative Health Sciences Program, approved by MERC in November, will be released on December 17, 2010. Targeted emails with information on the RFP will be sent to eligible faculty and academic staff in the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. Preliminary applications are due on February 4, 2011.

Response to Milwaukee Common Council
The Milwaukee Common Council, chaired by Alderman Michael Murphy, recently discussed the findings of the Legislative Audit Bureau and the activities of the Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP). WPP leadership and staff were unable to attend the hearing as it conflicted with the WPP strategic planning meeting on November 17, 2010. The WPP followed up with a detailed response to the Council’s discussion, and a request to meet with Alderman Murphy to provide additional information.

3. Decision on November 8, 2010 draft minutes

Chewning seconded a motion by Drinkwater to approve the draft November 8, 2010 minutes. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
4. **Presentation of and decision on Wisconsin Partnership Program 2011 administrative budget**

Smith presented an overview of the WPP administrative budget for 2011, totaling $890,038. The budget, which is similar in amount to the 2010 budget, covers 7.75 FTE, including a new Program Officer for the Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families. Remington seconded a motion by Nycz to approve MERC’s 65% portion of the 2011 budget, totaling $578,525. Following discussion, there was agreement that it is most appropriate to refer to the budget as the “Program Leadership and Administrative Budget.” The motion passed by unanimous vote.

5. **Financial report:**

**MERC endowment value and cash balances**

Mount presented the financial projections for the Wisconsin Partnership Program through November 30, 2010. The projected value of the endowment is $294.7 million, 4.6% above the historical value, with a related cash balance of $31.6 million. WPP leadership and staff continue to carefully monitor the value of the endowment.

**Discussion and decision on WPP endowment distributions in 2011**

In accordance with the WPP’s policy on General Principles for Endowment Growth and Distributions, MERC reviewed the stipulated endowment distribution rate for the upcoming year. Mount indicated that the stipulated distribution rate used by the UW Foundation was lowered from 4.75% to 4.50% on a rolling historical endowment value. Mount recommended that the WPP implement a 4.25% rate of distribution from the endowment during 2011. He clarified that this rate was used in developing the 2010-14 financial projections discussed by MERC in October, 2010. MERC unanimously accepted Mount’s recommendation to implement a 4.25% rate of distribution during 2011.

6. **Adjournment-Closed Session: Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1) (c), (e) and (f) to interview the faculty finalists and to determine the grant awards for the competitive New Investigator Program. The meeting is expected to reconvene into open session.**

Chewning seconded a motion by Drinkwater to adjourn the meeting into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1) (c), (e) and (f) to interview the faculty finalists and to determine the grant awards for the competitive New Investigator Program. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

MERC interviewed seven finalists for the 2010 cycle of the New Investigator Program. Before the interviews began, Lemanske declared a conflict of interest on Theresa Guilbert’s proposal as her primary mentor. He was present for Dr. Guilbert’s presentation to MERC, but did not participate in asking questions of her following the presentation. Lemanske did not initially score her proposal, and also absented himself during discussion and did not vote on the proposal for the final ranking.
After thorough discussion of the seven proposals, Remington seconded a motion by Drinkwater to return the meeting to open session. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Drinkwater seconded a motion by Remington to confirm the motion made during closed session to fund the following three proposals:

- Theresa Guilbert, MD, MS, Department of Pediatrics, Clinical and Public Health Data Exchange: Estimating Asthma Prevalence Across Wisconsin
- Scott Nagle, MD, PhD, Department of Radiology, Cystic fibrosis MRI: Tracking lung function and response to therapy
- Deric Wheeler, PhD, Department of Human Oncology, Nuclear EGFR and Breast Cancer: Strategies for increasing efficacy of anti-EGFR based therapies in Breast Cancer

The motion passed with eight affirmative votes. Lemanske did not vote.

7. **Adjourn – next meeting January 10, 2011**

Moss adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison