Minutes
UW School of Medicine and Public Health (UW SMPH)
Medical Education and Research Committee (MERC)
February 14, 2011 at 5:00PM – Room 4201 Health Sciences Learning Center

Members Present: Betty Chewning, Byron Crouse, Norm Drinkwater, Paul Moberg, Rick Moss, Greg Nycz, Tom Oliver, Pat Remington (phone), Rod Welch

Members Absent: Marc Drezner, Susan Goelzer, Craig Kent, Rob Lemanske

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

Guests: Barb Duerst (MPH Program)

1. Call meeting to order

Moss called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

2. Announcements

UW Foundation
Eileen Smith reported that discussions continue between the UW Foundation and the Wisconsin United for Health Foundation, Inc. (WUHF) regarding the 1% annual expense recapture fee charged by the UW Foundation on the funds held on behalf of the Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP). Two related newspaper articles were distributed.

Meeting with Mayor Barrett and Alderman Murphy
Eileen Smith reported on a recent meeting of WPP leadership with Mayor Barrett and Alderman Murphy, Chair of the Milwaukee Common Council Finance and Personnel Committee. Chris Holmes also participated sharing her perspectives as a public member of OAC.

After discussing concerns and questions related to the WPP, Mayor Barrett and Alderman Murphy described the breadth and depth of public health problems in Milwaukee. Barrett and Murphy specifically noted the severity of Milwaukee’s STI crisis, and the critical need to improve immunization rates in the city. The WPP will work with the City of Milwaukee Health Department to explore different approaches to address those issues by building on the existing strong partnership between the Health Department and the WPP. The Medical College of Wisconsin is also planning to meet with Mayor Barrett and Alderman Murphy.

Meeting with Insurance Commissioner Nickel
Eileen Smith reported on a recent meeting of WPP leadership with the new Insurance Commissioner, Ted Nickel, and his staff. The meeting was an orientation for the Commissioner to the role and responsibilities of the WPP.
Response to Wisconsin Public Health Council
Eileen Smith and Pat Remington met with the Executive Committee of the Wisconsin Public Health Council (WPHC) on January 21, 2011 to elaborate on aspects of their earlier presentation to the full Council. The Executive Committee asked them to follow-up with a written summary of the discussion which was shared at a recent WPHC meeting. A copy of the letter was also shared with MERC.

Membership terms ending in March, 2011
Rick Moss reported that the membership terms for Norm Drinkwater, Susan Goelzer, Greg Nycz, and Rod Welch end in March, 2011. James Shull, Chair of Oncology, has been appointed by the Basic Science Chairs’ Caucus to a three-year term beginning in April. He replaces Rod Welch, who has served on MERC in his capacity as a Basic Sciences Chair since 2007. An election will be held in March to replace Norm Drinkwater as a Basic Faculty Representative. MERC’s chair in consultation with Dean Golden will develop a slate of candidates for election by the SMPH faculty. Susan Goelzer and Greg Nycz serve as representatives of the OAC. OAC will consider appointments to MERC at the February meeting. Moss expressed appreciation for the many contributions made by the above committee members to the MERC.

Collaborative Health Sciences Program
Eileen Smith distributed a list of the 23 Collaborative Health Sciences Program preliminary applications. One applicant was deemed ineligible. A Subcommittee of MERC – made up of Betty Chewning, Byron Crouse, Norm Drinkwater (chair), Rob Lemanske, and Rick Moss – will review each preliminary application to determine if it warrants further development as a full application. The Subcommittee will report its decision on invitations at the April MERC meeting.

New Investigator Program
Eileen Smith reported that the 2011 MERC New Investigator Program Request for Proposals (RFP) is under development. MERC’s approval will be sought in May.

3. Decision on draft minutes

November 17, 2010 OAC/MERC
Greg Nycz seconded a motion by Norm Drinkwater to approve the draft minutes of the November 17, 2010 OAC/MERC strategic planning meeting. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

January 10, 2011 MERC
Tom Oliver seconded a motion by Byron Crouse to approve the draft MERC minutes of January 10, 2011. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
4. Financial report on MERC endowment value and cash balances

Ken Mount presented the financial projections for the WPP through January 31, 2011, with actual balances through September 30, 2010. The projected value of the endowment is $308.6 million, 9.5% above the historical value, with a related cash balance of $31.5 million.

5. Interim progress report presentation on Master of Public Health (MPH) Program

Tom Oliver presented an interim progress report on the targeted award, “Master of Public Health (MPH) Program”. He also provided information on the five-year US Department of Health and Human Services award to establish the “Wisconsin Center for Public Health Education and Training (WiCPHET)”. WiCPHET partners include the four Wisconsin Master of Public Health Programs at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, UW-La Crosse, UW-Milwaukee, and the Medical College of Wisconsin. Oliver reported that as of July 1, 2011, the MPH Program will be fully supported by the SMPH budget with a growth model focused on tuition recapture.

Greg Nycz commented on the MPH Program’s consideration of a distance education component. He continued to encourage its development for non-traditional students. Barb Duerst indicated that development of a distance component is under consideration, with a possible step approach to development beginning with free learning modules to determine interest and need. Remington reported on feedback shared at a recent retreat where current MPH students encouraged Program leadership to maintain a rigorous campus program, and pointed out areas for improvement.

6. Discuss MERC interim progress and final reports:

Collaborative Health Sciences Program

Individual Stroma-Targeting Therapy in Breast Cancer
Norm Drinkwater and Pat Remington presented their review of Andreas Friedl’s final report for his Collaborative Health Sciences Program award, “Individual Stroma-Targeting Therapy in Breast Cancer”. The project resulted in the development of a feasible novel treatment strategy for breast cancer and highlighted the necessity for tailoring this treatment for specific patients. Three peer-reviewed publications on the project formed the basis for two extramural grant applications, one funded and one pending, as well as a UW Carbone Cancer Center Investigator-Initiated grant. Dr. Friedl was successful in leveraging MERC funds and in disseminating the results. There was interest by MERC in knowing the funding status of the pending application. Pat Remington seconded a motion by Norm Drinkwater to accept the final report. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Healthy People/Healthy Systems: The OPTIMISE Model
Rick Moss presented the written review by Rob Lemanske on Bennett Vogelman’s final report for his Collaborative Health Sciences Program award, “Healthy People/Healthy Systems: The
This comprehensive final report indicated that significant progress was made on all five objectives of the project. Dr. Vogelman received the distinguished Laureate Award from the Wisconsin Chapter of the American College of Physicians, which included acknowledgement of his leadership on this project. The project results were also highlighted in an extensive number of publications related to this work. Byron Crouse seconded a motion by Greg Nycz to accept the final report. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

New Investigator Program

Reconstructing HIV Sequence Histories to Identify Potent Immune Responses
Norm Drinkwater and Rod Welch presented their review of David O’Connor’s final report for his New Investigator Program award, “Reconstructing HIV Sequence Histories to Identify Potent Immune Responses”. Although the original strategy for identifying the founder virus in the SIV model was unsuccessful, Dr. O’Connor was successful in modifying the study design, resulting in two novel approaches providing a firm foundation for extending the studies to humans. The project also resulted in three peer-reviewed publications. MERC was interested in Dr. O’Connor’s plans to pursue extramural support to continue this work. Norm Drinkwater seconded a motion by Rod Welch to accept the report. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Partnering with Quit Lines to Promote Youth Smoking Cessation in Wisconsin
Betty Chewning and Pat Remington presented their review of Tammy Sims’ revised final report for her New Investigator Program award, “Partnering with Quit Lines to Promote Youth Smoking Cessation in Wisconsin”. The revised report was adequately detailed and provided helpful information on the project’s data collection and analysis. Although the initial sample of teenagers provided insufficient power to adequately test the project’s first aim, Dr. Sims was able to adjust the study design to collect adequate data from young adults. MERC was interested in knowing the publication status of the submitted manuscript. Pat Remington seconded a motion by Betty Chewning to accept the final report. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

7. Adjourn – next meeting April 11, 2011

Moss adjourned the meeting at 6:15pm.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison