Minutes – Meeting # 33
Wisconsin Partnership Program Education and Research Committee (PERC)
Health Sciences Learning Center, Room 4201
Monday, May 14, 2012  5:00 – 7:00PM

Members present: Norm Drinkwater (ex officio), Jenny Gumperz, Paul Moberg, Rick Moss, Greg Nycz, Elizabeth Petty, Pat Remington

Members absent: Betty Chewning, Marc Dreznner, Craig Kent, Robert Lemanske, Tom Oliver, James Shull

Staff: Quinton Cotton, Cathy Frey, Mary Jo Knobloch, Ken Mount, Karen Roach, Eileen Smith, Steve Smith

1. Call meeting to order

Moss called meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

2. Announcements

Wisconsin United for Health Foundation, Inc.
Meeting with WUHF is scheduled on July 12, 2012, to present the Wisconsin Partnership Program 2010 annual report.

ICTR renewal application
Marc Dreznner will present the renewal application for the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR) at the June 11 meeting; vote will take place at the July meeting. Reapplication has been completed, and WPP will send to members soon to allow sufficient time for review. Since this is a core grant for PERC, Moss will ask two members to review it in detail and present to the committee for discussion.

Harvey Fineberg lecture, May 23
Remington gave brief background on Harvey Fineberg, president of the Institute of Medicine. Fineberg will be in Madison next week for several meetings, including the Dean’s External Advisory Committee on the Transformation, of which he is a member. He will give a seminar on the intersection between public health and medicine on May 23. PERC members are encouraged to attend.

Collaborative Health Sciences Program
Full applications for the 2012 funding cycle of the Collaborative Health Sciences Program (CHSP) are due May 17. A full panel of reviewers is in place. PERC will interview finalists and make awards in September.

PERC meeting packets
Smith announced that for future PERC meetings, members will receive only handouts that are late-breaking news and not posted online. She encouraged members to print and bring their meeting packet or laptop to join in WPP’s conservation efforts.

3. Decision on draft minutes of April 9, 2012

Vote was deferred due to lack of quorum.
4. Discussion of and decision on reorganization of PERC membership

Expand number of elected positions
Moss discussed the need to expand PERC’s number of elected positions to add depth to the membership and increase capacity for review of progress and final reports and award decisions. The recommendation is to expand membership by three faculty positions: basic science, clinical, and public health. The Dean and WPP staff will prepare a slate and hold an election.

Appoint an executive committee
In the past, an executive committee provided an initial vetting of proposals before they were presented to the full committee with a recommendation. Moss would like to return to this structure, which is more effective and efficient and gives PERC members confidence that there is a more comprehensive review of proposals before they are presented for action by the committee. It would lessen, but not eliminate, the impact of committee members advocating for a proposal or requesting support, and it would also give the full committee more time to spend on strategic issues. The executive committee would meet monthly to create the PERC meeting agenda, and to keep abreast of potential issues or proposals. No cost extensions would also be delegated to the executive committee. Moss will appoint and chair the executive committee, which will be representative of PERC’s balanced portfolio approach and areas of expertise in education and research and it will also include a public member from OAC. Liz Petty and Greg Nycz agreed to serve.

2013 meeting schedule
With an executive committee in place and meeting monthly, the full committee should have a strategic focus. The goal would be to spend one hour discussing issues related to the strategic direction of the committee and allocation of resources rather than going through report approvals, so that meetings would become more productive. Executive committee’s agenda would not come in the form of recommendations, and any controversial issues would come to the full committee for discussion. Meetings of the full committee might move to every other month or four months off per year.

There was general agreement that establishing an executive committee would be beneficial to the committee. Moss concluded the discussion with an indication that the new structure and process will be evaluated and adjusted as necessary.

5. Discussion of draft New Investigator Program 2012 Request for Proposals

Drinkwater presented a draft of the revised New Investigator Program Request for Proposals, slated to be released on June 19, 2012. This timeline gives PERC members one month to review. The New Investigator Program is PERC’s competitive program for assistant professors who are in the early stages of their careers. Drinkwater reported that the pool of candidates has narrowed due to a decline in applications. Moss will have discussions with faculty and hopefully, with some encouragement, PERC can expand the pool again. Committee members indicated that PERC needs to make it clear to basic scientists that their projects have the potential to be funded. To help change this perception, Drinkwater suggested including language to let potential applicants know the RfP has been clarified. Reviewers must also be made aware that the PERC funds research that has potential to improve the health of people of Wisconsin; and consistent with a balanced portfolio, PERC wants to invest in projects that have the potential to advance with the greatest impact. Moss added that PERC’s intention with the NIP is to fund “the best of the best.”
6. **Oversight and Advisory Committee report**

Remington reported on the OAC meeting that took place on April 18, 2012. The committee discussed the PERC-OAC funding collaboration on the Wisconsin Population Health Fellowship Program. The OAC sees the Fellowship Program as a way to further educate public health graduates and approved funding 50 percent of the budget for two years. He indicated that PERC is funding 50 percent of the budget for one year, with a commitment to continued funding beyond one year.

The OAC is currently funding 45 active grants. The Beloit LIHF Collaborative submitted a grant proposal, but the committee felt it was not quite complete and requested additional information.

7. **Discussion and decision on no cost extension request for 2009 targeted award, Transforming Medical Education: Integrating Public Health in the Curriculum (Christine Seibert)**

Unspent balance of $795,237 to date; account is open until June 30, 2012. Reasons for extension request include delays in faculty recruitment and clerkship curriculum restructuring, as well as several key faculty departures. Otherwise progress is on course and the request seems reasonable. PERC decision was deferred.

8. **Discuss PERC interim progress and final reports**

- **Genetic and environmental predictors of serum levels of 25-hydroxyvitamin D** (Corinne Engelman, NIP, final report)
  Petty reported that statistical analysis will be completed by December 2012. Engelman indicated that she has fully expended her PERC award but has access to other funds in her departmental account to pay for two graduate students to help finish data cleaning and analysis. She also noted that Population Health Sciences will continue to support a portion of her time to complete this project. Since Dr. Engelman plans to complete the project later this year, there was general agreement by PERC to require that she resubmit the final report no later than December 31, 2012.

- **Nuclear EGFR and Breast Cancer: Strategies for increasing efficacy of anti-EGFR based therapies in Breast Cancer** (Deric Wheeler, NIP, 1st interim progress report)
  Drinkwater reported that he is satisfied with Wheeler’s progress toward meeting goals, and gave him “five stars for writing a progress report that is readable and understandable.” There was general agreement by PERC to accept the report.

- **Wisconsin Infectious Disease Drug Discovery** (Bruce Klein, CHSP, final report)
  Gumperz reported that Klein has made outstanding progress toward meeting the aims of the grant, however the final report is too succinct to tout his success. PERC has requested more information. She predicts that this grant will be a candidate to highlight on WPP website and in reports. There was general agreement to accept the report with a request for additional information on outcomes and accomplishments.

9. **Adjourn – next meeting June 11, 2012**

Moss adjourned meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Recorder, Karen Roach