Minutes
UW School of Medicine and Public Health
Partnership Education and Research Committee (PERC) Executive Committee
January 9, 2014, 10:00 am, 4141 Health Sciences Learning Center

Members Present: Elizabeth Jacobs, Rick Moss (chair), Greg Nyicz (phone), Tom Oliver, Jim Shull

Members Absent: Elizabeth Petty

Guest: Norman Drinkwater

Staff: Tonya Mathison, Ann McCall, Eileen Smith

1. Call meeting to order

Moss called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Discussion and decision on draft minutes from November 18, 2013

Nyicz seconded a motion by Shull to approve the November 18, 2013 draft minutes. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

3. Discussion of Collaborative Health Sciences Program draft 2014 application guidelines

Drinkwater, PERC Review Subcommittee chair, provided an overview of the draft Collaborative Health Sciences Program (CHSP) 2014 Request for Proposals (RFP). Changes to the RFP primarily reflect implementation of the Wisconsin Partnership Program 2014 – 2019 Five-Year Plan. The RFP includes the following list of topics of particular interest to PERC: obesity, health disparities, education and mental health. The review process has been reworked to include community representatives on the expert review panel who will consider project alignment with the WPP Five-Year Plan mission, vision and desired outcomes, as well as relevance and potential impact on health in Wisconsin. Applicants are reminded that the expert review panel will assess the potential impact on health.

Nyicz was supportive of the addition of the community representatives to the expert review panel as it shows an increasing orientation by PERC toward health impact. He suggested expanding the reference to health disparities in the list of encouraged topic areas to include oral health. His recommendation was unanimously accepted. Shull seconded a motion by Nyicz to recommend PERC’s approval of the CHSP 2014 RFP with the agreed upon change. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Discussion and recommendation on no cost extension for Chris Bradfield’s Targeted grant, Environmental Health Center Strategic Planning Grant

Moss provided an overview of the no cost extension request from Christopher Bradfield, Professor of Oncology, for his Targeted award, Environmental Health Center Strategic Planning Grant. The request is for $85,000 over six months beginning January 1, 2014. This request requires approval by PERC as it is over 25 percent of the total $200,000 budget. He has made good progress since the project began in January 2013 with enrollment of 60 volunteers, collection of mRNA, and completion of related measurements. During the next six months, he plans to complete technology comparisons for biomarker discovery and analyze the biomarker discovery methods to identify the most sensitive biomarkers for smoking in the blood.
Shull declared a conflict of interest as chair of the Department of Oncology. He did not participate in discussion of the no cost extension and did not vote.

In response to a question by Nycz on whether progress was proportionate to expenditures, Moss replied that the greatest expenses are related to work during the extension period. He noted that analysis for biomarkers in the blood can be expensive. Jacobs seconded a motion by Nycz to recommend PERC’s approval of Dr. Bradfield’s no cost extension as submitted. The motion passed with four affirmative votes. Shull did not vote due to his conflict.

5. Discussion of document sharing programs for accessing PERC meeting materials

Since UW-Madison’s My Web Space is no longer meeting the needs of the WPP and its committees, WPP staff have looked into alternative cloud-based file storage and sharing sites. UW-Madison has contracts with Box and Google Drive. Members shared their experience with each site and agreed that Box would best meet the needs of the PERC and OAC. This recommendation will be shared with both committees.

6. Adjourn

Moss reported that the Executive Committee will meet twice in February. An additional meeting was scheduled on February 5, 11:00 a.m. to Noon, to hear a presentation by Alex Adams, Family Medicine, on the obesity prevention initiative.

Moss adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison