Minutes
UW School of Medicine and Public Health
Partnership Education and Research Committee (PERC) Executive Committee
December 15, 2014, 11:00 a.m., 4250 Health Sciences Learning Center

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

WPP Staff: Tonya Mathison, Eileen Smith

1. Call meeting to order
Moss called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

2. Announcements
Mathison informed members that the 2015 PERC Executive Committee meeting schedule had been set with meetings typically taking place on the fourth Monday of the month from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. At this time, there are no meetings scheduled in May and December.

3. Discussion and decision on November 26, 2014 draft minutes
The Executive Committee unanimously approved the November 26, 2014 draft minutes following a motion by Shull which was seconded by Petty.

4. Discussion and recommendation to PERC on Strategic renewal application for “Survey of the Health of Wisconsin”

Moss introduced discussion of the Strategic renewal application from Javier Nieto for the Survey of the Health of Wisconsin. In alignment with PERC’s financial projections through the end of the current Five-Year Plan, WPP leadership had instructed Nieto to submit a renewal budget with no inflationary increase—$1.4M annually—through the end of the Five-Year Plan in March 2019 (four years and one month beginning March 1, 2015). Nieto submitted an inflationary budget requesting $1.5M annually along with a supplemental budget without such an increase. Moss recalled an expectation by PERC that the budget for SHOW would decrease over time as SHOW leveraged increasing levels of extramural funding.

The Executive Committee discussion of the application focused on the following:

- Overall, the application was favorably reviewed by two content experts—one within and one outside of the University of Wisconsin. However, there was a comment that the reviews could have been more detailed, although they did include suggestions for improvement.
- It will be important to review the history of this award and expectations shared when initially funded and at the committee’s various renewal decisions as compared to where the program is today. Of particular interest was SHOW’s plans to leverage additional resources since initially being funded in 2004. With the exception of the $5.5 million Grand Opportunities grant in 2009, SHOW has not been successful in obtaining national funding.
- There was general agreement that it is most appropriate for PERC to support SHOW’s infrastructure since national funding for such efforts is not generally available. However, SHOW’s research activities must be supported through extramural funding mechanisms.
- Most of the 16 listed publications since the inception of SHOW include as authors Javier Nieto and Kristen Malecki, the PI and Co-PI, respectively. This raised concerns about access of other researchers in the school and across campus. There was general agreement that SHOW must
enhance its efforts to engage researchers outside of the department of population health sciences, especially basic scientists, in the use of SHOW data and biospecimens.

- There were questions regarding the rationale behind or the scope of the changes in SHOW’s sampling design following strategic planning.
- SHOW provides an important community-based service. However, there was a concern that the project has potentially moved too far toward providing services at the cost of providing robust data and materials for both basic and translational research.
- As stewards of the WPP funds, of utmost importance when making funding decisions, including a decision on renewal funding for SHOW, is how projects will improve health in Wisconsin. An additional consideration is the opportunity cost regarding PERC’s other funding mechanisms, like more Collaborative Health Sciences or New Investigator awards.

There was general agreement by the Executive Committee to defer Nieto’s presentation of the renewal application to PERC to a meeting to be scheduled in February 2015, and to require that Nieto provides the following supplemental information for review by the Executive Committee at its January 2015 meeting:

- Provide a comprehensive description of the SHOW’s change in orientation toward providing a community-based service. In addition, provide more thorough detail on the changes to SHOW’s sampling design and the reasoning behind the decision to make the changes following its strategic planning process.
- Outline plans for engaging researchers outside of the department of population health sciences, in particular, basic scientists. And, provide details on how researchers access SHOW data, including a list of investigators who have accessed materials in SHOW’s biorepository to-date.
- Regarding the budget proposing $1.5M annually, explain what the “new” dollars would be used for.
- Outline benchmarks through the period of award, including goals for leveraging additional funding and number of publications.

There was a sense by the Executive Committee at this time that there are two options for funding SHOW’s renewal application: (1) Fund at $1.4 million over one year only with the expectation of re-application, or (2) Fund over a period of three years with a year-one budget of $1.4 million followed by annual accumulating reductions of $100,000 with the expectation of extramural funding to make up the difference.

5. Discussion of and recommendation to PERC on revised draft Collaborative Health Sciences Program 2015 Request for Proposals

Mathison presented the latest revisions to the draft Collaborative Health Sciences Program 2015 Request for Proposals. The major change since the Executive Committee’s review of the first draft focused on distinguishing the components that are a part of the standard NIH-style biographical sketch and the additional components needed by WPP as part of a technical review of nonsupplanting. There was general agreement to require that applicants as part of the full application submit a NIH-style biographical sketch in the new format required by NIH with details on all active grants and selected concluded grants and the addition of a new WPP-specific section with details on all pending proposals.
6. **Overview of PERC grant awards history in preparation for committee-wide discussion in January**

Discussion of PERC’s grant awards history was deferred to the January 2015 PERC Executive Committee meeting. Full committee discussion will follow at the to-be-scheduled February 2015 PERC meeting.

7. **Adjourn**

Moss adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison