Minutes
UW School of Medicine and Public Health (UW SMPH)
Partnership Education and Research Committee (PERC)
January 11, 2016 at 5 p.m. ~ 3330 HSLC

Members Present: David Allen, Norman Drinkwater (non-voting ex officio), Elizabeth Jacobs, Rick Moss (chair), Greg Nycz, Richard Page, Elizabeth Petty, Pat Remington, James Shull

Members Absent: Marc Drezner, Patricia Keely, Gregory Kennedy, Tom Oliver

UW-Madison Chancellor’s Office Liaison: Paul DeLuca

Staff: Quinton Cotton, Andrea Dearlove, Kelly Klingensmith, Mike Lauth, Tonya Mathison, Ken Mount, Anne Pankratz, Eileen Smith, Nathan Watson, Kate Westaby

Guests: Bruce Klein (Wisconsin Center for Infectious Disease)

1. Call meeting to order

Moss called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

1. Announcements

   a. Welcome Anne Pankratz, University Relations Specialist
   Smith introduced Anne Pankratz who recently joined the WPP as a University Relations Specialist. She is responsible for all WPP communications activities, including developing publications and promoting the work of the WPP and its grantees.

   b. February PERC meeting, strategic discussion on health equity
   Moss reported that the February 8, 2016 PERC meeting will include a strategic discussion on health equity. WPP leadership will be meeting with the chairs of the OAC and PERC, Pat Remington and Rick Moss, in advance to develop specific recommendations to be discussed with the committees at their respective meetings in February.

   Members shared their appreciation with Greg Nycz for his recent editorial in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, “Why the Wisconsin Partnership Program Works.”

   d. UW-Madison Chancellor appoints liaison
   Moss welcomed Paul DeLuca, Provost Emeritus, who was recently appointed by UW-Madison Chancellor Rebecca Blank as the liaison to the WPP. DeLuca, who chaired the PERC from 2004-2009 (at that time known as the MERC), is familiar with the WPP.

2. Decision on draft minutes

   a. November 18, 2015 Strategic OAC/PERC
   The draft November 18, 2015 Strategic OAC/PERC minutes were unanimously approved following a motion by Remington and a second by Shull.
b. December 7, 2015 PERC
The draft December 7, 2015 PERC minutes were unanimously approved following a motion by Nycz and a second by Shull.

c. December 14, 2015 PERC
The draft December 14, 2015 PERC minutes were unanimously approved following a motion by Petty and a second by Page.

3. Presentation of and decision on Wisconsin Partnership Program 2016 leadership and administrative budget

Smith presented an overview of the WPP 2016 leadership and administrative budget, which totaled $1,111,774. The request is slightly higher than in 2015 primarily due to an increase in the fringe benefits rate for staff, the purchase of a new grants management database and the statewide conference on health equity. Shull seconded a motion by Allen to approve PERC’s portion, 65 percent, of the 2016 budget totaling $722,653. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Overview of proposed revisions to and decision on PERC conflict of interest policy

Moss provided an overview of proposed changes to the PERC conflict of interest policy, which had been reviewed and endorsed by the Executive Committee at its November 2015 meeting. The primary revision was to specify that PERC members cannot apply as Principal Investigator (PI), Co-PI or Collaborator on Collaborative Health Sciences, New Investigator or Opportunity Grant applications. After discussion, there was agreement to amend the motion to add removal from the committee as a potential consequence of a member not declaring a conflict. The motion passed by unanimous vote. The revised policy will be distributed to members by email along with the annual conflict of interest questionnaire for completion.

5. Discussion and decision on Collaborative Health Sciences Program 2016 Request for Proposals

Norman Drinkwater, PERC Review Panel Chair, provided an overview of proposed changes to the Collaborative Health Sciences (CHSP) 2016 Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP, which had been reviewed and endorsed by the Executive Committee at its November 2015 meeting, included the following revisions:

- Releasing the RFP one month earlier than last year—January 13th.
- An extension of the length of the full application abstract and relevance section from one page to two pages—one page for the abstract and one page on relevance/impact.
- Project budget:
  - Principal Investigator salary support not to exceed NIH salary limitations.
  - Require PI and Co-PI percent effort between 5 and 30 percent. If cash-match funding is being used to cover salary and fringe benefits, details about the funding sources and amount are required.

In response to a question on incorporating health equity into the RFP, Drinkwater indicated that PERC’s discussion in February 2016 will lead to an action plan on the committee’s approach to addressing health equity, including incorporating health equity into PERC’s RFPs. Drinkwater clarified that the CHSP 2016 RFP includes several longstanding references to WPP’s priority of reducing health disparities. The CHSP 2016 RFP was unanimously approved for release on January 13, 2016 following a motion by Nycz and a second by Petty.
6. Regular reports: Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC)

Remington reported on the December 16, 2015 OAC meeting. The committee heard a presentation on occupational health and workplace wellness from OAC member Barbara Zabawa, JD, owner of the Center for Health Law Equity, LLC. The OAC also discussed a proposal from Beloit Health Systems to reestablish the Beloit Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families (LIHF) Collaborative. OAC decided not the fund the proposal after external reviewers shared a number of concerns and concluded that the proposal was not sufficient to warrant funding.

7. Final report presentation on PERC Strategic grant, Wisconsin Center for Infectious Diseases

Bruce Klein presented the final report on the PERC Strategic grant, “Wisconsin Center for Infectious Disease (WisCID).” Funding from PERC created WisCID to investigate microbiological areas of public health importance and translate the research discoveries into novel therapies and preventive measures. The drug discovery focus area has been particularly successful. With $16 million in leveraged funding from the National Institutes for Health, a team led by David Andes is currently studying natural products from insects, plants and marine organisms. To-date, more than 70 novel compounds have been discovered. After responding to questions, PERC members expressed appreciation to Klein for his excellent and impressive work.

8. Strategic discussion topic: PERC financial projections

Mount presented the financial projections for PERC through 2019, which included the following grant categories: Collaborative Health Sciences Program, New Investigator Program, Opportunity Grants, Strategic Grants and Education. The projections were developed with a number of assumptions about each grant category as well as the following: (1) administrative expenses remain constant, (2) spend rates set based on the duration of the particular award, and (3) stock market returns remain constant at 5.5 percent, including the 1 percent UW Foundation fee. Mount indicated that PERC currently has approximately 2.5 years of cash distributions available. By the end of the current Five-Year Plan in 2019, PERC is projected to have just over 1.8 years of cash distributions available. This level is in alignment with the WPP general principles for endowment growth and distributions, which sets as a minimum 1 to 1.5 years.

The committee’s discussion of the projections focused on the following:

- Necessary to complete a thorough evaluation of Strategic renewal grant applications, which take up roughly 70 percent of PERC’s annual budget, and consideration of requiring increasing levels of matching funding from other funding sources.
- Strong support for continuing to reach School of Medicine and Public Health faculty and their innovative ideas through PERC’s RFP programs, New Investigator and Collaborative Health Sciences.

PERC charged the Executive Committee with vetting the projections further and making recommendations, especially regarding the evaluation of Strategic renewal grants, for PERC’s consideration.

9. Adjourn – next meeting February 8

Moss adjourned meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison