Members Present: David Chestnut (phone), Norm Drinkwater, Susan Goelzer, Katharine Lyall (phone), Doug Mormann, Maureen Smith

Members Absent: Paul Moberg

Staff: Cathy Frey, Tonya Mathison, Eileen Smith, Shannon Sparks

Invited Guests: Phil Davis, Ken Croes, Edward Nelson, Jordan Petchelnek

1. Call meeting to order

Goelzer called the meeting to order at 9:05am.

2. Overview of agenda

Goelzer provided an overview of the agenda and the expected outcomes of the meeting.

3. Review March 26, 2008 and April 23, 2008 Minutes

Mormann moved approval of the draft March 26, 2008 minutes. Drinkwater seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Mormann moved approval of the draft April 23, 2008 minutes. Drinkwater seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

4. Mid-course update of Evaluation Subcommittee activities

Frey presented a mid-course update on the activities of the Evaluation Implementation Committee. Thus far, the Committee has discussed the preliminary results of three of the five evaluation focus areas: Governance and Stewardship Operations Audit, School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) Transformation, and Advancing the Public Health System. Frey presented the timeline for discussion and analysis of the remaining focus areas. The Evaluation Committee will present a final report of findings at the joint meeting of the Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) and the Medical Education and Research Committee (MERC) in October, 2008. In the meantime, results are being shared with the two committees as they become available so as to inform the development of the next Five Year Plan.

5. Focus Area (2) UW School of Medicine and Public Health Transformation and (1) Advancing the Public Health System – Content of final report

Key Informant Interviews – Draft final report of findings and themes

The UW Survey Center conducted forty-one in-depth personal interviews with the WPP
stakeholders, including: UW School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) Department Chairs, Center and Institute Directors, administration, committee chairs, and faculty and staff; University leadership and leaders from other UW Schools; government officials; community grantee organizations; and external stakeholders. Researchers recorded the interviews, prepared transcripts, and conducted an analysis of the content. The Survey Center researchers presented the following results:

**Advancing the SMPH transformation:** Although respondents’ knowledge of the progress of the transformation and the role of the WPP varied according to their involvement with specific programs, respondents generally agreed that the WPP is the engine for the transformation of the SMPH and that funds from the WPP support public health research, initiatives for community engagement, and an expanded curriculum that increasingly includes public health concepts.

**Alignment with State Health Plan, Healthiest Wisconsin 2010:** Many respondents’ consider the state health plan to be a living document addressing a broad range of health priorities. Four main themes emerged in the interviews:

- Some respondents see the state health plan’s breadth as being necessary to mirror the complexity of the state’s pressing health problems, while others see it as diluting the plan’s strategic influence. There was a split between those who advocated for the WPP to remain as broad as the state health plan and those who want to see the WPP narrow its scope to specific targeted priorities.
- Respondents who interpreted “public health” broadly tended to see all of the WPP’s funding decisions by both OAC and MERC as aligning with the state health plan, while those who defined it more narrowly viewed the MERC grants as not being well aligned with the plan. Despite divergent viewpoints, many respondents praised three MERC projects for having potential to improve health in Wisconsin: the UW Institute of Clinical and Translational Research, the Survey of the Health of Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Network for Health Research.
- Several respondents argued that the WPP should have a distinct role outside of the purview of the state health plan.
- Several respondents offered specific suggestions on how to improve the connection between the state health plan and the WPP’s next Five-Year Plan.

**Priorities for the Future:** Six broad themes emerged as priorities for the WPP going forward, including: health initiatives, faculty development and recruitment, education and curriculum development, grants and grants administration, public health workforce development and publicizing the WPP’s mission and accomplishments.

**Public Comment Survey**
Frey reported that a general Public Comment Questionnaire was conducted using an anonymous web-based survey conducted by the UW Survey Center. The survey asked respondents to answer four questions to gain perspectives on where program priorities should be for WPP’s next Five-Year Plan. The survey was distributed to approximately
5,000 individuals via the WPP’s extensive email list, the SMPH faculty database, and to organizations throughout the state. There were 560 responses with almost half of respondents are affiliated with the SMPH, and the remaining half are a mix of individuals from other academic institutions, community-based organizations, health care provider organizations, and government agencies.

Results of the stakeholder interviews and the public comment survey will be presented and discussed at a joint meeting of the OAC and MERC later today.

Discussion and recommendations (All)
The Evaluation Implementation Committee will consider specific recommendations next month, after reviewing the final report on the stakeholder interviews. The committee’s recommendations will be shared with OAC and MERC.

6. Focus Area: Balanced Research and Education Portfolio (3). Review evaluation methods.

Frey introduced focus area (3) Balanced Research and Education Portfolio which is aimed at evaluating the extent to which the Medical Education and Research (MERC) awards have resulted in a balanced portfolio of research and education with a timeline for realization of results and application to individual and population health. Frey will present the preliminary findings at the Evaluation Implementation Committee meeting in July.

7. Adjourn

Goelzer adjourned the meeting at 11:00am.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison