Minutes

UW School of Medicine and Public Health
Medical Education and Research Committee
August 11, 2008 at 5:00PM – Room 4201 Health Sciences Learning Center

Members Present: Sanjay Asthana, Bill Busse, Cindy Czajkowski, Paul DeLuca, Norm Drinkwater, Susan Goelzer, Tom Grist, Jeff Grossman, Cindy Haq, Greg Nycz, Patrick Remington, Gordon Ridley, Susan Skochelak, Jeff Stearns

Members Absent: Molly Carnes, Rick Moss, Javier Nieto, Mary Beth Plane, Rod Welch, George Wilding

Staff: Cathy Frey, Tonya Mathison, Eileen Smith, Karla Thompson

DeLuca called the meeting to order at 5:15pm.

1. Approval of minutes

Busse moved approval of the draft June 18, 2008 Joint OAC/MERC minutes and the draft July 14, 2008 MERC minutes. Drinkwater seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

2. Announcements

2007 Annual Report / ABC for Health, Inc. letter
Dean Golden will present the 2007 Annual Report to the UW System Board of Regents for approval on August 21. Smith distributed a letter from ABC for Health, Inc. commenting on the 2007 Annual Report as well as her response.

Wisconsin Partnership Program audit
Eileen Smith and Ken Mount are meeting with the State of Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) Chief Auditor and her team to prepare for the upcoming audit of the Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP), which is expected to begin in January 2009.

Collaborative Health Sciences Program New Grantee Orientation
The WPP presented an orientation last week for the five new Collaborative Health Sciences Program (CHSP) grantees, which included an overview of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and clarified reporting requirements.

3. Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) report

Nycz provided an overview of the July 16, 2008 OAC meeting which focused on a discussion of a draft proposal for development of a process and administrative structure for the special initiative, Reducing Health Disparities in Birth Outcomes in Wisconsin. The proposal included the purpose, assumptions and key principles, program design process and framework, and lessons learned from other foundations. After a thorough discussion, the OAC confirmed its
commitment to the initiative by investing up to $10 million over the next five years as part of a long-term effort to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities in birth outcomes in Wisconsin. Through local planning coalitions, OAC will use these funds to support a life-course perspective for women and their families in targeted communities.

The OAC made the following recommendations that will be implemented over the next several months: (1) Recruit a Healthy Birth Outcomes Senior Program Officer who will provide overall leadership, expertise and management of the special funding initiative; (2) Develop and convene a Technical Advisory Workgroup to refine the program, design and establish the guidelines and process for the planning, implementation and evaluation of the birth outcomes initiative; and, (3) Develop a program logic model and detailed proposal to the OAC for consideration.

The OAC also discussed the Community-Academic Partnership Fund (CAPF). Following a technical review by WPP staff, 118 eligible applicants were invited to submit full CAPF proposals – 75 implementation grants and 43 development grants.

4. Wisconsin Partnership Program Evaluation Implementation Committee report

Drinkwater presented the following recommendations of the WPP Evaluation Implementation Committee based on the final UW Survey Center stakeholder report, “The Wisconsin Partnership Program Role in the Transformation of the UW School of Medicine and Public Health and Advancing Wisconsin’s Public Health System”:

- Describe the WPP’s role in accelerating and advancing the School’s transformation through educational initiatives, faculty engagement and development, institutional incentives, research, and community engagement activities. Describe strategies to help the public understand how the transformation will address the evolving health and health care needs of Wisconsin’s communities.

- Dedicate resources for the development of existing faculty and recruitment of new senior faculty and leaders with public health expertise to support an integrated approach across the School’s basic and clinical departments and Centers.

- Incorporate funding approaches that develop a review process for current initiatives, specific and consistent criteria for judging future initiatives, and identify priorities aligning with the transformation of the School and the public health priorities of the state.

- Emphasize community engagement throughout the WPP to strengthen the School’s capacity and expertise in public health and support the transformation process.

- Identify approaches to engage the full spectrum of faculty, including basic science departments, in areas of public and population health. Identify appropriate faculty incentives to promote community engagement.

- Allocate resources for expanding the distance education component of the Master of Public Health (MPH) program. Identify strategies to encourage and support medical students and other trainees, including graduate and allied health students, to pursue degrees public health.

- Identify strategies to help grantees understand the purpose, goals and objectives of the State Health Plan to use as a tool for addressing the priorities of the state.

- Describe funding priorities along with specific grant program goals, with measurable
outcomes and strategies that align with the WPP mission, vision and guiding principles. Further, as the School’s transformation proceeds, the WPP and the School should take every opportunity to clarify its vision of a fully integrated School of Medicine and Public Health as a national model that can aid in guiding a better system of health and health care.

There was general consensus by MERC to consider the recommendations of the WPP Evaluation Committee as the 2009-2014 Five-Year Plan is developed.

5. MERC Executive Subcommittee report

Following an inquiry by a faculty member, the Executive Subcommittee agreed to follow the National Institutes of Health policy on data sharing. This will be included in future MOUs.

The Executive Subcommittee discussed a proposal by Thomas Oliver, PhD, and Louise Trubek, JD, entitled Governance and Health System Change: An Interdisciplinary Initiative. They requested $299,950 over three years to examine the role of governance in maintaining or reducing barriers to innovation and improved health system performance. The Executive Subcommittee recommended that the investigators submit the proposal to the competitive Collaborative Health Sciences Program (CHSP) and seek additional collaborators, including the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research. DeLuca indicated that he would be willing to explore limited funding for the development of two conferences from other sources.

DeLuca indicated that the remaining topics discussed at the August Executive Subcommittee meeting, including the Wisconsin Institutes for Medical Research (WIMR) proposal, the draft MERC section of the 2009-2014 Five-Year Plan, and the New Investigator Program (NIP) Request for Proposals, will be covered later in the meeting.

6. Discussion and decision on proposal: Wisconsin Institutes for Medical Research (WIMR)

Jeff Grossman agreed to chair the meeting during MERC’s discussion of a proposal submitted by Robert Golden, MD, entitled Final Fit-Out of Wisconsin Institute for Medical Research (WIMR) Phase I. Golden requested $2,470,347 over two years to implement the equipment necessary for the phase-in of the WIMR facility. The equipment purchased will support shared services that impact everyone in the building or affect the entire research enterprise of the SMPH, a critical component of the transformation to an integrated school of medicine and public health.

Four members indicated the following conflicts of interest and were permitted to participate in discussion of the proposal, but abstained from voting:

- Paul DeLuca, Co-Principal Investigator
- Norm Drinkwater, Department will benefit
- Tom Grist, Collaborator
- Gordon Ridley, participated in developing the proposal

Nycz moved approval of the proposal with the incorporation of the following amendments as recommended by MERC: (1) change the title and the narrative to emphasize and clarify the
important role of shared resources for interdisciplinary research in WIMR, (2) include a description of “cost savings” in the budget narrative, and (3) remove the “cost sharing” column in the budget details. Remington seconded the motion was approved with ten affirmative votes. DeLuca, Drinkwater, Grist and Ridley abstained.

7. **Discuss draft MERC section of 2009-2014 Five-Year Plan**

DeLuca indicated that recommendations of the Executive Subcommittee were incorporated in the latest draft of the MERC section of the 2009-2014 Five-Year Plan. Among several editorial changes, MERC considered the following additional revisions:

- Clarify community-based programs rather than research in *Faculty Development and Expansion*.
- Indicate that development of a targeted Request for Proposals parallel to the Collaborative Health Sciences Program in *New Research Initiatives* will emphasize other areas which are driven by available health data.
- Indicate that terms will be three-years and initially will be staggered to ensure continuity in *Restructuring of MERC*.

8. **Discuss New Investigator Program 2007 Request for Proposals**

**Application Review Subcommittee**

Smith reported that additional reviewers for the New Investigator Program (NIP) are being sought.

**Review process**

MERC discussed a revised score sheet for the NIP which includes two sections - project objective and design and Wisconsin Partnership Program alignment. There was general acceptance by MERC of the revised score sheet. Since feedback is valuable to applicants, Nycz noted the importance of providing detailed comments.

DeLuca adjourned the meeting at 6:45pm.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison