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

Members Absent: Katharine Lyall, Paul Moberg

Staff: Cathy Frey, Eileen Smith, Shannon Sparks

1. Call meeting to order

Goelzer called the meeting to order at 11:09 am.

2. Overview of agenda and meeting outcome

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

3. Review July 23, 2008 and August 6, 2008 Minutes

The draft minutes of July 23, 2008 were unanimously approved.

The draft minutes of August 6, 2008 were unanimously approved.

4. Final report findings: Balanced Research and Education Portfolio focus area

Frey presented findings breaking down MERC expenditures to date by taxonomy, earliest implementation, and state health plan priority. Smith reminded the committee that the insurance commissioners order requires an assessment of the distribution between education and research. The committee commented that currently there are no directives from MERC as to what the preferred balance between research and education awards would be.

Discussion of recommendations to MERC

The committee considered the following recommendations based on the findings from the Balanced Research and Education Portfolio focus area:

- Develop a conceptual framework to measure the impact and return on investment of research and education initiatives by WPP.
- A commitment to annually assess research and education awards based on that framework and consider adjustments in funding accordingly.
- MERC should have a discussion about what the balance should be between education and research.

Based on the committee’s input, Frey will refine the above recommendations and circulate to the committee for approval.
5. **Focus Area: Community Academic Partnership Model – review preliminary findings**

Sparks presented an interim report provided by Dr. Barb Bowers on the “Community-Academic Partnerships Evaluation.” This report provided an update on recruitment efforts for the evaluation, and presented preliminary thematic findings from the first 15 interviews. The committee noted that the response rate from community and academic partners contacted to participate in this part of the evaluation was low, and made the recommendation that efforts be made to improve participation in the evaluation. WPP staff said that they would work in conjunction with Dr. Bowers to improve the response rate and participation in the evaluation.

6. **Adjourn**

Goelzer adjourned the meeting at 1 pm.

Recorder, Shannon Sparks