Minutes

UW School of Medicine and Public Health
Medical Education and Research Committee
November 10, 2008 at 5:00PM – Room 4201 Health Sciences Learning Center

Members Present: Sanjay Asthana, Bill Busse, Molly Carnes, Paul DeLuca, Norm Drinkwater, Susan Goelzer, Tom Grist, Jeff Grossman, Cindy Haq, Javier Nieto, Greg Nycz, Mary Beth Plane, Patrick Remington, Susan Skochelak, Jeff Stearns

Members Absent: Cindy Czajkowski, Rick Moss, Gordon Ridley, Rod Welch, George Wilding

Staff: Tonya Mathison, Eileen Smith, Karla Thompson

Invited Guests: Laurel Rice

DeLuca called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

1. Approval of October 13, 2008 minutes

Nycz moved approval of the draft October 13, 2008 minutes. Grist seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

2. Announcements

2009 MERC meeting schedule
The 2009 meeting schedule was distributed. Meetings will typically take place on the second Monday of each month from 5:00-7:00pm at the Health Sciences Learning Center.

Smith confirmed that current membership terms on MERC have been extended through June 2009. It is expected that the reorganized committee, as described in the Five-Year Plan, will meet in July 2009.

WUHF review of 2009-2014 Five-Year Plan
Smith reported on the November 6 meeting with the Wisconsin United for Health Foundation, Inc. (WUHF) on the Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP) 2009 – 2014 Five-Year Plan, which went well. The UW System Board of Regents will review and consider approval of the plan on December 4.

3. MERC Executive Subcommittee report

DeLuca provided an overview of the November 3 Executive Subcommittee meeting. The Subcommittee discussed the interim progress reports for the Master of Public Health Program and the Regenerative Medicine Program. Although both programs have shown
progress, the Subcommittee developed recommendations for consideration by Pat Remington and Tim Kamp prior to their presentations to MERC in December.

A financial status report by Ken Mount on the WPP’s total cash flow and budget planning projections estimates at least an 18% decrease in the value of the endowment. As of December 31, 2008, it is expected that the expendable funds for MERC will be just over $30 million and the endowment value at its floor of just over $183 million for the MERC portion of the funds. If the value of the endowment drops below the floor, there is effectively no income available for distribution.

After discussion by MERC of possible spending reductions, there was general agreement to have a detailed discussion in December.

4. Discussion and decision on Collaborative Health Sciences Program 2008-09 Request for Proposals and review process

DeLuca reported that the Executive Subcommittee recommended going forward with the release of the Collaborative Health Sciences Program (CHSP) Request for Proposals in November with consideration of a reduction in the award amount. The review process was revised to include a meeting of the expert reviewers to discuss the proposals and provide a ranked list to the MERC along with a written critique of each ranked proposal.

There was general agreement by MERC to release the CHSP on November 21 as planned with a reduction in the award amount for the 2008-09 cycle of the CHSP to $400,000.

5. Adjournment-Closed Session: Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(c), (e) and (f) to interview the faculty finalists and to determine the grant awards for the competitive New Investigator Program. The meeting is expected to reconvene into open session.

After further consideration of possible spending reductions, Drinkwater moved that MERC award up to five New Investigator grants at a reduced amount of $90,000. Busse seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

After DeLuca presented an overview of the interview process, the following members indicated conflicts of interest and did not vote on proposals under consideration from their respective departments:

- Javier Nieto, Chair of the Department of Population Health Sciences
- Tom Grist, Chair of the Department of Radiology
- Bill Busse, Chair of the Department of Medicine
- Norm Drinkwater, Professor, Department of Oncology

Drinkwater moved that MERC adjourn into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(c), (e) and (f) to interview the faculty finalists and to determine the grant awards for the
competitive New Investigator Program. Remington seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

After considerable discussion of the applicants’ presentations as well as the scores and comments provided by the expert reviewers, MERC unanimously agreed to return to open session.

After returning to open session, MERC reaffirmed the decision made in closed session to award $90,000 to each of the following Assistant Professors:

- **Weibo Cai, PhD, Department of Radiology, Positron Emission Tomography Imaging of Tumor Angiogenesis**
- **Corinne D Engelman, MSPH, PhD, Department of Population Health Sciences, Genetic and environmental predictors of serum levels of 25-hydroxyvitamin D**
- **Christopher J Francois, MD, Department of Radiology, Computed Tomography (CT) with Reduced Radiation Dose Using Prior Image Constrained Compressed Sensing (PICCS) Reconstruction**
- **Ana P Martinez-Donate, PhD, Department of Population Health Sciences, Evaluation of Cuidandome: A Communitywide Intervention to Promote Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening among Latinas**

DeLuca adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison