

Research Policies Committee

April 24, 2020

2:30-4:00 pm

Virtual Meeting, BlueJeans

Chaired by Dr. Francine Dolins

Members present: Francine Dolins; Akira Nishii; Ashley Kalinski; Jacob Carlson; Jenna Manske; Jessie Lee; Kate Eaton; Nicholas Harris; Nicholas Ernst; Marisa Conte; Mimi Dalaly; Irene St. Charles; Teri Rosales; William Close; Yi-Su Chen, Natalie Colabianchi; Jay Vornhagen;

Guest(s): Michael Imperiale

Absent: Annalisa Manera, Jairam Menon, Priti Shah, Nocona Sanders, Hafiz Malik; Zenon Sommers; Jordan McNaughton,

I. Review of minutes from March 2020

- Minutes approved

II. First topic:

- Presenter, Michael Imperiale
 - i.** Dr. Michael Imperiale, Vice President of Research - Policy & Compliance
 - ii.** Current Research Environment
 - 1.** Principles of ramping up our research efforts
 - a.** Starts with internal and external public health experts
 - b.** Restricting number of people within square footage
 - c.** Single points of entry into each building
 - i.** Potential monitoring of temperatures upon entry
 - ii.** Masks may be required
 - d.** Labs
 - i.** Shared equipment
 - ii.** Directional arrows
 - e.** Some level of staggering will be involved in this approach
 - f.** Likely returning “later” in June, but not known now
 - g.** The last lift of restrictions will be human subjects research
 - iii.** Questions
 - iv.** Francine – Influence on undue foreign influence. Are we sharing information with other countries in this current environment?
 - 1.** Yes, the gov’t is still paying attention to this topic.

2. Law enforcement is looking into more and more instances of faculty that they believe have violated statutes.
 3. Be careful with collaborations but more importantly, disclose international relationships.
 4. A committee was formed (chaired by Craig Reynolds) to follow external relationships in areas broader than research.
- v. Francine – A collaborator has DOD grants. What is the responsibility of the PI here at U of M?
 1. You are not responsible for every collaborators relationships, just make sure to disclose your relationships.
 - vi. Jay - Is EHS considering the possibility of contamination of PPE (masks) that would have to go back and forth between wet labs and home?
 1. Multiple masks – use one, wash the other
 - vii. Ashley – managing shared space such as bathrooms.
 1. Cleaning will be more frequent, access limitations unknown.
 - viii. Jay – Also, are there discussions occurring for those that are using the COVID time bank for reasons such as home schooling, taking care of family members, etc such that those staff remain protected?
 1. From the Public Health perspective, which buildings allow for the social distancing that we would like to retain. What types of projects will be ramped up is also important in anticipating that we will need to ramp down.
 2. Jay – how will the decision will be made for which projects?
 - a. Principles in the works, there is not really a direction for that at this time.
 3. Kate – Everyone feels anxious about funded research that they are in the middle of. People will want to get back to work.
 - a. Personal feeling is that the decisions should be made at the laboratory level.
 - ix. Jake – are the 3 campuses coordinated?
 1. Yes, the principles apply across all campuses.
 - x. Jake – how can, the committee, help you?
 1. Spread the word to find out what needs are to conduct research efficiently and at a high quality.

- Comments

- i. Francine – impressed with leaderships ability to communicate everything that has been occurring.

III. **Announcements**

- None

IV. **Call for other business**

- Francine Dolins to Chair committee next year
 - i. Endorsed by the committee
 - ii. Confirmed by Teri and Kate
- Topics for next year

- i. Finances for research – Jacob Carlson
- Jay – the last OoR messages have caused anxiety, especially with post-docs. The broad announcements are hard to interpret as to whether information pertains to individuals.
 - i. Michael – with respect to the furlough, if a post-doc wanted to take advantage of this voluntary furlough, they could do it. The provost office may be the best place to address those questions.
- Teri – does the funding mechanism matter; internal or external funds?
 - i. Michael – if someone is working on external funds, they must be working on the project they are being paid for.
- Ashley and Will are not returning to the committee next year. A big THANK YOU to both of them.
- Call for thinking about under-represented areas to join the committee
 - i. Francine – looking for representation in Humanities
 - ii. Jake – consider finding representation from Flint campus

V. **Meeting adjourned: 16:00**