



Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Minutes

December 8, 2021
9:00am – 10:00am
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Present: Robert Ploutz-Snyder (Chair), Rebecca Cunningham (VP for Research), Marilia Cascalho, Natalie Colabianchi, Vania Hinkovska-Galcheva, Claudia Figueroa-Romero, Vilma Mesa, Vitaliy Popov, Nathan Qi, Teri Rosales, Yulia Sevryugina, Hakam Tiba, Jay Vornhagen, Jessica Durkin, Elizabeth Devlin

Absent: Elena Gallo, Marouane Kessentini, Hafiz Malik,

Chair Ploutz-Snyder called the meeting to order at 9:00am, welcomed the committee and gave a brief overview of the agenda.

Chair Ploutz-Snyder welcomed the guest speakers and turned the floor to the first presenters to the committee.

NIH Other Support Requirements for International Activities, Planned OVPR town halls, and Faculty Support

Craig Reynolds, Assistant Vice President for Research of the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects

Mike Imperiale, Associate Vice President for Research, Research Policy and Compliance

The guest speakers introduced themselves to the committee and said that they would be discussing some of the changes that will be upcoming for the reporting requirements for PI's that are funded by the NIH.

Associate VP Imperiale shared with the committee that there has been a complex and rapidly changing policy landscape, especially over the last few years. Their office is working to ensure that UM faculty follow NIH policy expectations. He stated that the university values and supports international collaboration, which will be the focus of their discussion.

Associate VP Imperiale shared with the committee the resources that are already available and some of the ongoing work that supports faculty in this area. He indicated that the conflict of interest staff members are available on an ongoing basis for consultations. They are available to work with faculty that have questions about their disclosures or would like their disclosures reviewed. They started a new outreach process where the COI staff now have office hours where any one can dial in via zoom to get their questions answered promptly. The COI staff has been coordinating the review of proposals and disclosures to ensure consistency.

Associate VP Imperiale shared that they have an international engagement Town Hall schedule the week of January 10 to discuss these issues.



VP Cunningham commented to the committee that the university is obligated to follow the policies that the NIH implements. She wanted to reiterate that the groups on campus, like the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects and Research Policy and Compliance, are there to ensure that faculty have a way to engage in international collaborations. She shared that the university has individuals from government relations actively working to try to improve these federal policies.

Associate VP Imperiale shared that effective January 25, 2022, the NIH is requiring that PI's who are funded or likely to be funded by the NIH must provide copies of contracts, grants and other agreements with international entities. This includes appointments, affiliations, or other employment and private consulting contracts. This policy will require the university to review all of these contracts before submitting them to the NIH to ensure compliance with university and NIH policy. The Office of Research and Sponsored Projects and some of the staff in the COI offices will be taking the lead in this new process.

Associate VP Imperiale shared that these committees are proposing changes to the university's SPG regarding Conflicts of Interest and Conflicts of Commitment as a mitigation measure if contracts are found to be no longer compliant under the new policies. The SPG will propose the central management of specific cases.

The committee asked for clarification that under university policy regardless of the agency they must follow the new M inform process. Associate VP Imperiale indicated that this was in anticipation that other agencies will implement the same compliance policy requirements as NIH.

VP Cunningham would like the committee to offer some feedback:
What are some things that faculty find confusing about the messaging?

Chair Ploutz-Snyder requested the committee to consider the question of clear messaging about the policy changes and new processes. He asked committee members to either email him directly or to Ms. Devlin to share with VP Cunningham.

[UM-ACP July 2021 Survey](#)

*Guest: Duxin Sun, President, UM Association of Chinese Professors (ACP)
Charles R Walgreen Jr Professor of Pharmacy and Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences,
College of Pharmacy*

Professor Sun introduced himself to the committee and shared the results of the UM Association of Chinese Professors survey. Professor Sun gave an overview of the survey rationale, the background, and major findings.

Chair Ploutz-Snyder thanked the guest speakers for attending and adjourned the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Devlin
Faculty Senate Office