FACULTY SENATE
SENATE ASSEMBLY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

1120 Ruthven Building
1109 Geddes Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

Minutes of Meeting: 9/30/24
Circulated: 10/21/24
Approved: 10/28/24

Present: Arthur Lupia (Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation), Audrey Bennett, Suresh Madathilparambil, Orsolya Lautner-Csorba (Chair), Quentin Stout, Magda Ivanova, Alena Stocking (OVPR), Tyler Nix, Mrinal Sarkar, Angelica Previero, Fadhl Alakwaa, Karen Downing

Absent: Jesse Capecelatro, Seth Guikema, Alex Yasha Yi (SACUA Liaison)

Guests: Lisa Prosser, Associate Vice President for Research-Health Sciences, UM Office of Research

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe

1:01pm-1:09pm: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the April and previous September RAC meeting were approved. Introductions were made.

1:09pm-1:32pm: OVPR Overview

Summary: VP Lupia offered an overview of OVPR. He discussed the size and expertise at the University allows for innovative work to take place. The size can present challenges and opportunities. In FY23 the total research volume at UM was $1.86B.

OVPR works with all units on the three campuses to catalyze, support and safeguard UM research. Assists with the Research lifecycle. OVPR can assist with every part of the research lifecycle. This includes finding funding, developing proposals, submitting proposals, setting up projects, managing projects, and close out projects.

OVPR is able to connect faculty to funding opportunities and sponsors. Other useful aspects of research development include providing grant writing and editing workshops, as well as the development of resources, programs and tools to increase faculty competitiveness.

Safeguards are in place. UM has the highest standards of animal welfare. Health and safety are among the highest pillars of OVPR. Strong research integrity is critical.

OVPR works to create external partnerships. UM had over 600 licenses last year. This is a very high amount and showcases the ingenuity of the UM community. OVPR coordinates federal interactions for the research enterprise. OVPR assists with international engagement.

OVPR can help with the patent and copyright process. They provide commercialization support and mentorship. A list of units within OVPR is provided. Contact info for OVPR is

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provided.

A member asks about R01 grants. Funding of OVPR is discussed.

<u>Action</u>: Presentation and Discussion

1:32pm-2:02pm: OVPR Research Track Faculty Overview, and discussion

<u>Summary</u>: Dr. Prosser presented on Research track faculty overview. The OVPR faculty affairs team is shared. Data is provided that shows the career track faculty at all three campuses are on. The majority of faculty on all three campuses are tenure track, followed by clinical track, and then research track. More data is shown that further breaks down the career path of research faculty.

There is an update to the promotion process for associate to "full" research scientists. The change "Removes PI requirement for independent research funding; replaces with recognition of independent scholarly contributions and the management of research resources at scale." These changes are discussed, with explanation provided for them. These came from suggestions of a review group and are meant to recognize the efforts of previously overlooked tasks.

Plans for this year for this office are shared. A peer mentor program and external reviewers are listed. A town hall was held this past January. Resources are provided.

Questions are answered around who makes the final determination for promotion at certain levels for research track faculty. Exit interviews are discussed.

Difference between tenure track and research scientists are discussed. There are different requirements for promotion.

<u>Action</u>: Presentation and Discussion

2:02pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office