

Minutes

Research Council Meeting June 11, 2019

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM Dental Dean's Conference Room, AG012

Present: Drs. R. Kelly (chair), I. Chen, L. Kuhn, R. Lalla, F. Nichols, and E. Reichenberger

Excused: Drs. S. Brocke, M. Hansen, C. Lottinger, T. Schmidt and T. Vella

Guests: Drs. Aguila and Gordon

Meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm.

Peer reviewing of grants before submission:

Two and a half years ago, Dr. Aguila started a program that offers grant writers the opportunity to have their grants reviewed prior to submission. A group of related scientists get together to review the grant and give feedback to the applicant that will ideally help the applicant to have their proposal accepted. At least twenty grants from the medical school were submitted in this way. The program is not compulsory, but it is a service that the medical school offers.

The most important part of the grant writing process is the timing. Dr. Aguila asks the applicants to provide him with a list of specific aims two months prior to the submission date. This allows him the ability to identify the appropriate reviewers for the grant. Six weeks before the submission deadline, the entire grant is reviewed. Within two weeks he gives a short summary statement to the applicant and offers recommendations and gives the applicant a chance to send the grant back for further review via email. The applicant then has the opportunity to agree to the changes.

Dr. Aguila fielded some questions from the group.

Q: How long do reviewers have to look at the grant?

A: 1 week.

Q: How many people review each grant?

A: Three reviewers plus Dr. Aguila.

Q: Are the reviews with Dr. Aguila in person?

A: Yes.

Q: Are the other reviewers anonymous?

A: Yes, but sometimes an applicant will make an attempt to figure it out.

Q: Who uses this service the most? Junior faculty? Senior?

A: The majority of grants are from Assistant Professors, but junior faculty also use the service.

The group discussed how the School of Dental Medicine would envision this type of program in the Dental School. Do we want to make a grant review mandatory or is it better to simply make faculty aware that such a service exists? Is there an opportunity here for mentoring junior faculty?

A recommendation was made to include people on an ad hoc basis so that we are getting the right input.

The Medical School utilizes a scientific writer to assist with grant submission. A discussion took place regarding whether or not the Dental School should contribute financially to this position so that they may also benefit from his guidance. We would like to develop more cooperation between the two schools in this regard.

If peer reviewing of grants is something that the Dental School would like to pursue, we must create a timeline and a schematic that we can share with the faculty. The Research Council is a good home for the initialization of this project. Dr. Kelly volunteered to be the go to person as we begin to plan the implementation.

The meeting adjourned at 2:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Kelly, DDS, PhD
Chair, Research Council