

Minutes of the Dental Senate Research Council

2 July 2019

2 pm – 3 pm

In attendance: Stefan Brocke, I-Ping Chen, Robert Kelly, Raj Lalla, Christy Lottinger, Frank Nichols, Tannin Schmid

Guest: David Rowe, Ernst Reichenberger

Excused: Liisa Kuhn, Marc Hansen

Discussions began with an update from Dr. Lalla regarding new “dollar density” calculations for Dental Medicine research laboratories. Besides the usual grant funding and publications, it was suggested that patents, publication citations and the value of research equipment also be considered. This accounting exercise has not been done for several years. Since that time reorganization and lab space renovations mean that many labs are now shared among several faculty. This reality also needs to be factored in.

The second discussion regarded development of a grant review process by both content experts and a grant writer. It was suggested by Dr. Rowe that content be reviewed in small steps over approximately 6 months to 9 months or more. First would be a short review of the general proposal. This would be followed by an initial review of specific aims and then a more in-depth review of the draft application, including final specific aims. The final review of the final proposed application would involve a multi-week process involving one clear content expert along with a few other faculty having related expertise in the NIH process. This review would involve an approximately 2 week to 3 week process. Finally, around one month prior to submission, the finished draft would be examined by a professional grant writer.

This review process would be either mandatory or voluntary depending on the decision of each department head. Grants to any agency or commercial entity would be eligible, including STTR and SBIR grants. It would be offered to all faculty, but especially targeted at junior faculty having limited or no grant experience. The process Dr. Rowe presented was developed from that currently in use by the School of Medicine. Content experts would be identified by the grant review coordinator, likely Dr. Rowe, and could come from UCONN Health, UCONN Storrs, or related institutions.