

Faculty of Health Sciences
School of Medicine Academic Council (SOMAC)
Minutes of Meeting, Tuesday May 20, 2014
School of Medicine Building, Room 132A @ 4:30 p.m.

1. 1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. with approximately 40 people present.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by M. Adams and seconded by R. Deeley that the agenda be approved as circulated. CARRIED

3. Approval of the Minutes of January 21 2014

It was moved by B. Bennett and seconded by M. Adams that the minutes of January 21, 2014 be approved as circulated. CARRIED

4. Announcements

• 2014 SOMAC Meeting Dates

The Chair announced the upcoming meeting dates for 2014-15 would be as follows and asked for their acceptance.

October 21, 2014, 4:30

January 20, 2015, 4:30

April 21, 2015, 4:30 ACCEPTED

5. Continuing Professional Development

• Revised Terms of Reference – membership Continuing Professional Development Advisory Committee (membership change from 4 Clinical Faculty to 3 Clinical Faculty)

K. Smith moved that the 4 Clinical Faculty on the membership be reduced to 3 Clinical Faculty. UNANAMOUSLY CARRIED

6. Nominating Committee

• Motion: ‘On behalf of the Nominating Committee I would like to move that the proposed faculty members for the Committees on attached report from the Nominating Committee be approved as presented.

On behalf of the Chair of the Nominating Committee, A. Ferguson moved that the list of proposed faculty members for the Committees on the report be approved. Seconded by T. Sanfilippo. CARRIED

7. Vice-Dean Research

- **Update on the Research Fund**

The Dean announced that he would be dedicating a million dollars to support incentives for research over the next two years. This is coming from reserves from the School of Medicine. The rationale for this is that this is an exceptional and turbulent time for research, especially with the upcoming CIHR changes. This comes on the backs of decreasing amounts of support at the University level as well as from the Government and at a time of fiscal restraints.

Out of the 1M, \$200,000 has gone to Dr. Bennett, Associate Dean Graduate and Postdoctoral Education to assist faculty members to take on new Graduate students. \$800,000 has been allocated to R. Deeley and J. Fisher to provide support for research in the School of Medicine.

R. Deeley reported that they organized a Town Hall to update everyone with respect to the changes from CIHR and will be providing support for those who are eligible for the two foundation scheme pilots rolling out this fall. The registration deadline will be this June and starting up this September. For most people it will be a three-stage process and a few only a two-stage process. The application, review forms and the review will be different than in the past. They will be funding only in specific areas. R. Deeley and J. Fisher gave a workshop on May 13th for those who are eligible to apply this June to the 2014 pilot scheme. The criteria for eligibility is for established Investigators whose funding will end. The School of Medicine has 8 or 9 faculty who meet this criteria. However, if you have never held a CIHR grant, a new Investigator to the system you are also eligible to apply. We have a 50/50 split with the two criteria. CIHR updates have been distributed on a regular basis. Part of the discussion at the workshop was based on how we were going to invest the \$800,000 and it was thought that some of the money should be used in bringing in experts to help with the new application process.

Over the next few months they will be contacting the individuals that will be eligible for the pilot scheme in 2015. They will hold a similar workshop and ask for feedback.

Dr. Deeley indicated that they would be asking faculty members as well as external faculty to help in the review process by striking up an ad-hoc committee. Discussion then ensued.

The Chair encouraged anyone who has any questions regarding this process to contact Dr. Deeley or Dr. Fisher.

8. Guest- Dr. Steven Liss, Vice-Principal (Research)

- **Implementation Update on the Queen's Strategic Research Plan**

S. Liss attended the meeting to give an update on the implementation of the Queen's Strategic Research Plan. Three questions along with documentation from the VPR office was distributed prior to the meeting. S. Liss reported that the Queen's Strategic Plan is

now a part of the Strategic framework that is a Board approved document. The University has indicated that the research plan is a working document. There were a number of recommendations in the planning process to which they are currently working on and initiatives that have been undertaken. Although, through the new budget process, there are resource implications on how those resources are required to support aspects of the research plan. Communication regarding this plan is very important and the VPR has met and will be meeting with as many groups on campus as possible.

The Chair then asked Dr. B. Banfield to present some questions from DBMS.

1. The first question regarding opportunities was the opportunity to recruit young scientists. Is there anything you can do so we can recruit these young Scientists.

The VPR responded that they are looking into renewing the faculty base. The QNS is a small advance toward this. All depends on what our budget allows us to do with regards to recruiting. Fund raising campaigns may help in ensuring research chairs.

2. Why isn't the research component included in the budget model?

The VPR responded by saying that the total cost of research isn't supported in a direct way that is earmarked research. The decisions of the allocations of money are ultimately left up to the Faculties. We need revenue growth in order to support the research.

3. How can we assist in advocating for research in the budget?

The VPR responded that we could support shared services and with the Faculty of Health Sciences making their case in advocating for research. We are meeting our requirements and regulations to report. We are mobilizing our resources effectively to make sure that we are providing the best service as possible.

The VPR reported that research at Queen's has remained intact and gave some examples. However, the Faculty of Health Sciences, with regards to external support and changes, have seen significant challenges. The University Fund is a small piece of resources and would like to see this grow. A priority for next year is the Research Opportunity Fund to meaningfully support a mid career.

M. Adams indicated that the faculty were told that the University Fund would be used to support the scholarly activity and that the University would roll out a plan. To date no information or plan has been set out. What is the plan? When are we going to hear about it? Is there research support in the University Fund? When will this fund be used? That is what we were told. It is a critical time and the faculty needs to know what the plan is.

The VPR indicated that communication is very critical. It depends on the state of affairs across the campus and how the residual of the University Fund grows. We would like to see this fund unfolded and used across the University. Yes we need to work on this as soon as possible.

It was mentioned that we need to act quickly to get the best researchers by putting up the money and use matching funds so we are not left behind in our research portfolio.

The Chair reported that they are investing 1M dollars to help support research.

Another question from DBMS was related to the recent animal activists activities that took place on campus and researchers thought there was little response from the VPRs office.

The VPR responded by saying that the University met with everyone involved in this difficult situation. He indicated that it is important to protect the information of our researchers and decisions were made and are continuing to work on this collectively and quietly. In the end the University wants to act in the best interest of our faculty members in acting the way we did.

The Chair thanked Dr. Liss for coming and giving us an update on the Research Strategic Plan.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 5:51 p.m.

David R. Edgar
Secretary to the School of Medicine