The meeting was called to order at 2:32 PM by Dr. Jasbir Dhaliwal.

Council members present: Reza Banai, Ali Fatemi, Kenneth Haggerty, Leigh Harrel-Williams, Cody Havard, Rebecca Howard, Stephanie Ivey, Eddie Jacobs, Satish Kedia, Santosh Kumar, Katherine Lambert-Pennington, Meghan McDevitt-Murphy, Deborah Moncrieff, Kim Oller, Jeremy Orosz, Brandt Pence, Chrysanthe Preza, Tom Sutter, Donal Harris, Reba Umberger, Alistair Windsor, Hongmei Zhang, Yufeng Zhang

Divisional Staff in Attendance: Dustie Flowers, Brian Evans, Cody Behles, Terrice Watson, Hai Trieu, Jasbir Dhaliwal

Other Faculty/Staff in Attendance: Will Alexander, Melloni Cook, Amy Curry, Tim McCuddy

**Approval of minutes from the November 2, 2023 meeting:**

Jasbir Dhaliwal asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Motion was made by Katherine Lambert-Pennington, seconded by Kim Oller, and approved unanimously.

**Update from Executive Vice President for Research and Innovation (Jasbir Dhaliwal)**

Dr. Dhaliwal gave updates on research growth and status of programs. Discussion centered on how to leverage R1 for future growth, the potential for new opportunities such as medical schools, and challenges with staffing and recruitment of top quality talent.

Discussion also highlighted the way expenditures are handled in the Responsibility Centered Management (RCM) model. Faculty were encouraged to work with their Associate Deans for Research to leverage IDCR and other distributed funds to address challenges within their colleges. The position description for research administrators from the College of Health Sciences was discussed as a model for research administrative positives. Colleges and departments were encouraged to develop their own plan and goals.

The session highlighted high impact scholars as provided by the Stanford-Elsevier Ranking of Top 2% top-cited researchers and getting every faculty member in the departments registered on Google Scholar,

**Divisional Reports**

**Research Enterprise Services Update (Terrice Watson)**

Terrice Watson shares new implementations including the LevelUp Training program. Staff are being retained by increasing their knowledge – the training is available to faculty and staff. RES has also developed a point of contact system in which you can search your department and find your department contacts, including pre-award coordinators, post-award contacts, and financial representatives. RES will also be enhancing emails when awards are issued with these contacts. They are encouraging that with the research dollars, the deans are increasing their pre- and post-award staff within the colleges. Ongoing, RES is developing a training program for the research administration community.

The transition from Banner to Oracle was discussed.

**Office of Research Compliance Update (Cody Behles presenting for Ricky Tan)**

Cody Behles shares the update on international research collaboration and research compliance (see slides). The compliance office is leading this effort. If anyone is dealing with international research and you have questions about this, reach out to Ricky Tan. Brian Evans shares that faculty should establish a SciENcv profile as it will be accepted by most federal agencies.

Also shared that NIH is pushing the base for postdoc salaries. He asks that when faculty are applying for grants, to put in more money for post-docs. He will share an announcement with faculty on this change soon.

**Office of Tech Transfer Update (Hai Trieu)**

Hai Trieu shares the Office of Tech Transfer report (see slides). Last year, the UofM joined Technology Transfer Advancement Consortium (TTAC), a new initiative led by LaunchTN with the goal to develop a centralized tech transfer office. TTAC can provide services including IP support, industry partnerships, commercialization research, funding, and research & ecosystem navigation. Since joining TTAC, the UofM has submitted 6 invention disclosures (see slides). We have 2 recently issued patents, and 3 allowed patents. There are two new licenses for Adaptive Tutoring Technology, LLC and CuesHub PBC.

Asks the UMRC to encourage postdoc students who would like to join the Patents2Products (P2P) program.

**Research Development Update (Cody Behles)**

Cody Behles shares Research Development Updates. RD is doing significant professional development across campus and encourage faculty to reach out if there are specific trainings or resources that would help with their work.

The University is partnering with UofMississippi on an EDA Tech Hub. UofM is the only university in TN to be in a tech hub. The project is specifically focused on biomedical devices – reach out to Brian Evans for more information on this.

Brian shares that NSF now has changed their postdoc mentoring plan to a graduate mentoring plan.

Data warehousing needs were discussed.

**Task Force Updates/Reports**

**Faculty Senate Update on Centers and Institutes Policy (Deborah Moncrieff)**

Deborah Moncrieff shares that they asked faculty for input on the centers and institutes policy—the feedback was that the policy needed to be less about specific details. The task force streamlined it to basic information—they are putting it into the faculty senate to a vote at the next meeting on April 23rd.

Subsequent policy needs and future policies for consideration by this group were discussed.

Cody Behles shares the proposed policy to review. Dr. Kumar suggests that we should not make deans/chairs ex officio members, but that the reports and feedback should go to the deans and chairs. Santosh Kumar motions to change the language, Kim Oller seconds, and 18 vote in favor, and 2 abstaining.

Will Alexander summarized the policy. Dr. Dhaliwal asks that the committee share their feedback with the task force before Monday and encourages them to attend the faculty senate meeting. Will Alexander agrees and encourages the committee to share feedback.

**Scholarly Communication Task Force (Kenneth Haggerty)**

Kenneth Haggerty shares a call for members of a scholarly communication task force. He would like to have members from every department/college. Five people volunteered to be on the task force (Reba Umberger, Brian Evans, Satish Kedia, Brandt Pence, Tom Sutter).

Will Alexander asks that the CV system be considered in the task force.

**Animal Care Task Force (Amy de Jongh Curry)**

Amy Curry shares that the animal care task force has the goal to get AAALAC accreditation by FY26-27. Dr. Curry has been working with IACUC animal care processes. Interinstitutional MOUs are done, IACUC oversight still needs improvements in post approval monitoring for animal activities, and medical surveillance and preventative medicine are in place. Staffing levels are doing better for facilities; however, their salaries are not competitive and may lead to turnover. We need to do a formal safety audit, enrichment for animals, and assessment and maintenance. We are getting back-up generators for the animals in the psychology and life sciences departments, which will help with HVAC issues. Adequate storage and space are still issues, and adequately documenting light intensities and noise and vibration mitigation still need to be done.

Dr. Curry shares awards to investigators using animals over the last few years—there is not an increase in PIs, but there is an increase in research dollars.

**New Faculty Engagement Task Force (Nate DeYonker)**

Cody Behles shares they are still working on building the task force. Brandt Pence volunteers to join. The task force will meet in May.

**Open Forum**

**Associate Dean/Director for Research Position Alignment**

Jasbir Dhaliwal asks the council to provide feedback on what the associate deans/directors of research roles should be. Cody Behles shares that we will be meeting with the ADRs to get feedback as well—if you have any feedback reach out.

**Other business**

Santosh Kumar asks to create a strategic goals task force: Brandt Pence, Santosh Kumar, Brian Evans, Kim Oller, and Tom Sutter volunteered.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn was made by Alistair Windsor, seconded by Katherine Lambert-Pennington, and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 PM.