Present: Michelle Adam, Carlen Adler, Renee Bolden, Laurinda Custodio, Karen Davis, Mona Delgado, Paul Deissler, Terry Durkee, Bill Gaudet, Heather Goode, Osiris Gonzales, Jennifer Hadden, Phyliss Harris, Jessica Hodgdon, Carrie Honeman, Heather Hower, Chair, Jenna Legault, Ashley Lundh, Wendy McRae-Owoeye, Anika Profit- Co-Chair, Diane Ricci, Christine Sarkady, Tanitia Sello, Leslie Stroller, Leslie Uhnak  

Guest: Clyde Briant: Vice President for Research

Opened today’s meeting with SAC Member Profiles.

Clyde Briant, Vice President for Research:

A Day in the Life of Clyde Briant

• Brown University did not have an Office of Research until 2003
• The first Vice President of Research was Andy Van Dam, who began his position in 2006
• One of the main things Clyde learned was that he cannot be an expert in these fields; he helps coordinate items
• The Office of Research serves the University and the faculty, and builds the research environment

Multiple Aspects of Conducting Research

• Large scale initiatives
• Funding opportunities: internal funds, restricted submissions
• Proposal and award management research protection and compliance, commercialization and dissemination for societal benefit, research infrastructure and centers
• Federal government is the biggest source of funding; we need to learn about it and submit proposals
• Open access; something new for publications on research

Research Administration

• Regina White, Associate Vice President for Research
• Pre-award, post-award, IRB, conflict of interest, export control, research misconduct, research opportunities

Technology Ventures Office

• Katie Gordon, Managing Director
• Commercialization, MTGAs, CDAs, Industry research support

Research Initiative

• Kathleen Shannon, Director
• Support all major initiatives

Brain Science Program

• Growing for a number of years; review indicated Brown should expand upon this program
• Implanted electrode in brain of quadriplegic allowing them to control robotic arms
• Brain studies: epilepsy, Alzheimer’s Disease
The National Children’s Study
- 20 sites around the country; Brown University/Women and Infants Hospital is one of the sites
- The study would begin with analyzing the parents and then follow the children
- Investigators will focus on the genetics involved in children’s diseases
- Women and Infants Hospital is the location of 75% of births in RI, which serves as a huge demographic

Math Institute located at 121 S. Main St.
- Clyde reaffirmed that this program benefits Brown University and the city of Providence
- The School of Public Health is in the process of formation, and will also be located at 121 S. Main St.

Press Releases: Examples of Research Media/News Stories
- Researchers report data on head trauma injuries in college football
- Mars volcanic exploration
- Improvement in eating habits
- Biodiesel fuel conversion
- Lead poisoning maps in Rhode Island

Research Support
- Seed funds
- Salomon Awards
- Sponsored funding
- Cost sharing funds
- Humanities research funds

Questions and Answers
Q. Do we collaborate with other Universities?
A. Yes. We work with hospitals as well as other Universities; the funding agencies like us to work with partners outside our own University.

Q. What kinds of calls do you receive?
A. A lot of the calls are local; students call for assistance.

Q. What role do you play in representing Brown University in terms of the city, the state, and university research to the federal government?
A. We do work with the city and the state. Kathleen has done a lot with that; for example, forming a social network if an issue comes up to pool resources for solutions to problems. The research we do can have an economic impact on the state, for example, Brown University does provide many jobs for the state. On the federal level, the funding budgets are flat and could start to shrink if the spending cuts are instituted. We try to keep that support intact by writing letters.

Q. How often do we collaborate with a specific hospital?
A. The Brown University Medical School does not own any of the hospitals they work with. Unlike some other universities, where all of their research runs through their own hospital.

Q. Regarding the National Children’s Study, how long will it take to analyze data?
A. Some things we can analyze quickly, for example, premature births, and early childhood diseases.

Q. What is the collaboration with state colleges?
A. We are trying to build up collaboration with URI in the Nano Science area. We pull together joint grants. Researchers in energy at URI are doing a lot of work on batteries. We are trying to build a RI Center for Energy. We have also had research getting started at Rhode Island College.
Karen Davis: Advisor’s Report
President Simmons, Marissa Quinn, and Karen Davis met with CCRI to look at models of University hospitals and collaborations. Workday testing started this week; they are looking for glitches, and will be another online training.

Wendy: Workplace and Sexual Harassment
In February 2012 we will be launching an online training.

Heather:

• In December 2011, some of us met with Stephanie Altomari about the budget; in some areas we are under, some areas we are over budget. The Consortium and Events and Morale Sub Committees need additional funding for SAC-APALOOZA and a holiday party, respectively; Heather will draft a proposal for these funds.

Staff Participation Sub Committee:
Volunteer opportunities:

• Magaziner Farm
• Amos House
• John Hope Settlement House
• Girls on the Run
• Hasbro Battleship Ball

Events and Morale Sub Committee:

• Ice cream social and strolls were very popular; these will be repeated this year.

Outreach and Communication Sub Committee:

• Working on uploading the meeting minutes, and member profiles.
• 130 responses on Winter Break Poll thus far, including categories of time spent, and anecdotes.
• Conversation Project: Phase 3 (we will keep some questions, delete others, and add some new ones). The idea is to have SAC members reach out to staff; we would like everyone to interview 5-10 people. We can report on that informally during our April tea with President Simmons. We would like to hear her thoughts on what she envisions for SAC going forwards.

Meeting adjourned at 1:33pm.