HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH COUNCIL
Notes and Action Items October 12, 2011

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<th>TOPIC</th>
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<td>Call to Order</td>
<td>• Chair Susan Taylor called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm</td>
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| Chair Announcements   | • Dr Taylor opened by reporting that the Research Council Executive Committee met with Assistant Vice Chancellor Jerry Olefsky earlier in the month to discuss the opportunities available as a result of the new buildings opening around the Health Sciences campus in the next few years.  
• She also mentioned that the December Research Council may be devoted to a discussion of the proposed imaging CORE at the new Sanford Consortium for Regenerative Medicine building.  
• Dr Taylor introduced both Speakers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |              |
| Sandra Brown, Vice Chancellor Research, UC San Diego | • Dr Brown presented an update on the status of the Office of Research Affairs (ORA), comparing the current status with her presentation to the Council this past spring. Please see Presentation at: [Research council presentation 10 12 2011.pptx](#). She said the update documents the efforts of the ORA to become more responsive to the faculty. Her goal is to change the overall climate within ORA to ensure UC San Diego’s scientists receive the support they need.  
• Q: Some faculty expressed concern about protocol, procedures and, particularly, the overall view that some people in the ORA are unnecessarily difficult to deal with.  
• A: Dr Brown stressed that the ORA wants to be helpful to our faculty. She invited faculty members experiencing concerns or difficulties to copy her on their email exchanges with ORA personnel. She is currently in the process of meeting with each group in the ORA to explain that being helpful to the faculty is a primary part of the job for every member of the ORA staff, and that customer service will be part of all employee evaluations going forward.  
• It was suggested that Technology Transfer “Officers” have their titles changed to Technology Transfer “Facilitators” as a way to contribute to the change in attitude that is underway.  
• Q: It was suggested that ORA needs a way to evaluate the quality of the patent attorneys faculty are referred to, as some have been very knowledgeable and helpful and some have not been either.  
• A: Dr Brown said she had not heard that before and would look into it.  
• Q: How does industry know what UC San Diego has available?  
• A: This is a concern at all levels. Agreement has been reached to create a common portal for industry.  
• Dr Brown closed by saying one of her goals is to recruit an additional staff in the Technology Transfer area. This will be the first increase in personnel in six years. She is also linking funding for ORA staff to productivity and quality of service. She said she is hopeful that the next time she visits the Research Council the |              |
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<th><strong>Erik Lium who is the Assistant Vice Chancellor of the Office of Innovation, Technology and Alliances at UCSF.</strong></th>
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| - Dr Lium said he would begin with a brief overview of the recent reorganization at UCSF and invited questions.  
- About two-and-a-half years ago, there was a retreat devoted to the best way to interact with industry. It recommended creating a central office to represent the entire institution to outside industry. UCSF took this suggestion to heart. Their reorganization is reflected in the new title of the department.  
- Dr Lium assumed his current position about three months ago and has spent the intervening period looking at best practices. He is currently at the point of starting his strategic planning process and of implementing initiatives.  
- He acknowledged that his biggest challenge at UCSF is related to technology transfer, where UCSF faces similar challenges to those faced at UC San Diego. Dr Lium finds relationship building, both internal and external to the University, to be an important focus.  
- Q: A philosophical issue was raised: It used to be said that academics were corrupt if they work with industry. What are the pitfalls we need to be careful about?  
- A: That depends. It is important to approach alliances intelligently and to ensure faculty understand the possible risks. Participation needs to be on an informed basis.  
- Q: What bottlenecks do you see?  
- A: I do not have enough detail to provide a definite answer. The main problem, as appears to be the case at both UCSF and UC San Diego, is cultural. The need to shift to a support culture less focused on “this is risky, and it will mean more work for me” to “this is an opportunity!”  
- One change being implemented at UCSF is to have interdisciplinary teams of interns complete a regimented process to analyze each proposed invention or innovation. Having these teams perform this work frees TT personnel to market the latest innovations and perform in-person outreach to internal and external customers. The formal report is submitted to the TT officer on the case and, once the report is approved by the TTO, it is sent to the faculty member. If there is disagreement on the content of the report, there is a tangible document to facilitate discussion and an appeals process that may include a panel of experts in the relevant field.  
- Dr Lium acknowledged that this review does take some time, however not much time (goal = 8 weeks). He said very few ideas meet the criteria to skip this step.  
- Q: How can we increase the probability of success?  
- A: A good original patent is worth more, and will usually hold longer. However the cost of a strong patent can be high. Good patent attorneys can be expensive. UCSF wants three things in a patent attorney: 1) mutual trust; 2) good service; and 3) the
best possible price. Currently, legal partners are paid hourly.

- Some major schools have issued RFPs stating fixed fees for three levels of patenting: 1) file quickly and look at the situation again in a year; 2) regular patent process; 3) complex patents. Those using this concept have been very pleased with the outcomes. They can file quickly for a reasonable cost and then look at the situation again in a year.
- This move from time and materials to a fixed price format for patent attorneys looks very interesting; resulting in more service for less expense. It would be an excellent opportunity for system-wide sharing. If the opportunity existed for fixed-price business, on a UC-wide book of business, top quality law firms might be interested.
- Q: What does UCSF do that is really different?
- A: The best answer would be “we build truly collaborative relationships with industry”. Yes, it can be a challenge to ensure all the protections are in place; however, we work hard at that. This is the most important difference.
- Dr. Taylor thanked Dr Lium for his input.

**Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday, November 8, 2011, 5:00 to 6:30 pm.**

**PRESENTER:** Robert Weinreb, Professor and Chair, UC San Diego Department of Ophthalmology

**TOPIC:** Ophthalmology Research Opportunities

**Dean’s Large Conference Room, BSB1320**