

RESEARCH
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Thursday, September 17, 2020
4:00 to 5:00 pm
Zoom

Attendees:

Elisa Bandera, Adam Berger, Willetta Boswell, Stephen Burley, Chang Chan, Shridar Ganesan, Carolyn Heckman, Christian Hinrichs, Howard Hochster, Anita Kinney, Edmund Lattime, Paul Novembre, Adrian Rodriguez, Zhiyuan Shen, Ioannis Stasinopoulos, Linda Tanzer, Eileen White, X.F. Steven Zheng, Wei-Xing Zong

Agenda

1. IS&T Updates and Proposed Action Items

- Adrian Rodriguez reported that efforts are being done to improve services.
 - o Efforts are underway to reconcile issues with different forms of Zoom accounts across Rutgers
 - o The IS&T department has lately been very involved with the upgrade to Epic
- Ideally, the ratio of IS&T Full Time Employees (FTEs) to CINJ personnel would increase.
 - o A workload analysis is being planned for CINJ, to see about getting a formula to identify appropriate ratios of IS&T staff to PIs, clinicians, and other personnel.
 - o There was agreement that IS&T staffing will need to be increased.
- The question was raised of where the indirect charges from clinical trials should go.
 - o The amount from indirect charges is probably not enough to cover the costs of the needed IS&T support for clinical trials.
 - o There was agreement that the revenue stream from the clinical enterprise should cover the clinical trial-related IS&T needs.
- The question was raised of whether Rutgers University students (e.g. those majoring in Computer Science) could be engaged in a work-study program to help to improve the IS&T personnel ratio.
 - o This scenario could be possible, but even then, there would be limits to how many hours the work-study students would be allowed to work.
- There are several challenges with using Apple devices that could be relevant to CCSG preparations.
 - o IS&T would like to leverage vacation time being taken by personnel using Mac laptops, that is, making needed updates during a time when doing so would not impact their ability to work.
 - o Updates on Mac laptops often require administrator rights, which is not allowed due to clinical restrictions. Giving the users administrator rights increases the risks from ransomware.
 - o iMac computers do not allow for secure remote access by home laptops.
- It was noted that postdoctoral appointees will often bring their own laptops into the laboratories.
 - o This is an issue that must be addressed, in order to guard against insecure access.
 - o The faculty could perhaps be educated about needing to supply their research personnel with computers.
- There was agreement that a centralized process, set of resources, and updated time frame for research-related software packages was needed.

- It was noted that the COVID-19 pandemic delayed necessary installations of needed computer infrastructure.
 - Dr. White requested that Adrian Rodriguez present at an upcoming Faculty Research in Progress meeting.
 - There was discussion of what is the standard process for backing up laptop computers, and the recommendation to save everything onto OneDrive.
2. Rate increases for Metabolomics Shared Resource (Berger/Stasinopoulos)
- There were no concerns about the proposed rate increases, so they would be implemented ASAP.
 - It was noted that more vouchers would be needed to help entry to these services.
3. COVID-19 Research Response Updates (Lattime)
- CINJ is currently in Phase C, which is 75% capacity of the laboratories, and remaining in this phase indefinitely.
 - New configurations are coming to the laboratories involving plexiglass set-up, so as to create up to four workspaces.
 - o The plexiglass is expected to arrive by tomorrow or next week. Installation of the plexiglass in all 40 laboratories is expected to be a quick and easy process.
 - o There is hope that shared equipment can be moved to promote social distancing.
 - Rules are very stringent around whether undergraduate students are allowed into the labs.
 - o According to the recent Rutgers policy, undergraduate students will only be allowed to work in labs if: 1) either a junior or senior, 2) credits are needed to avoid delays in graduation, and 3) have the endorsement of the undergraduate academic supervisor.
 - o Exceptions are theoretically possible, but require very high-level approval from the Chancellor's Office.
 - o The process to arrange for undergraduates to work in laboratories has been coordinated to begin with their undergraduate advisors, followed by a long process of obtaining signatures of approval.
 - o Any undergraduate working in the laboratory must be tested for COVID-19 weekly. The PI is responsible for maintaining compliance records.
 - Due to undergraduate students posing high risk for COVID-19 and patients being at greater risk from it, there was the question of how to proceed about whether to allow undergraduate students into the laboratories.
 - o A positive COVID-19 test in an undergraduate student would require several laboratories to be quarantined and closed.
 - o There was agreement that it seemed to be too risky to allow undergraduate students into the laboratories in the Fall.
 - o PIs will be encouraged to think creatively about offering opportunities for remote learning internships.
 - o Dr. Lattime will closely review the upcoming guidance coming from Rutgers ORED and then consult with Dr. Libutti about whether to allow for any undergraduate students in the laboratories. The administrative burden may be preventive.
4. Strategic Plan Review/Updates (Londino-Greenberg/Tanzer)
- Gina Londino-Greenberg presented on updates in the Strategic Planning process, with the presentation covering:
 - o Focus groups held and scheduled
 - o Other Strategic Planning activities
 - o Key findings from the Research Programs' focus groups
 - o Next steps in the Strategic Planning process

- It was noted that the Strategic Plan components being developed were very reflective of only the CCSG.
- There was agreement that other Mission topics beyond that of the CCSG should be incorporated.
 - o An additional focus group would need to be arranged to determine these topics for incorporation.
 - o The RWJBH system would need to be involved in this new Strategic Plan, though it does have its own Strategic Plan and so there would need to be clear delineation between the two.
- The new Strategic Plan needs to include addressing the need to engage clinicians who want to do research.
- There needs to be a way to bridge the separation between CINJ and RWJBH.
 - o Giving CINJ membership to new clinicians could be helpful.
- The new Strategic Plan will need to be presented at a CCAB meeting.

Next Meeting

Thursday, October 15, 2020 (4:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Zoom)