

COM-Research Task Force (RTF) Minutes 3/16/2023

Present by Zoom:

Jonathan Bird (Chair)
Paramita Chakrabarty
Sylvain Doré
Mark Segal
Katya Lobanova

Apologies:

Lisa Merlo
Mark Moehle
Bhavana Patel
Cory Brunson
Robert Mankowski

The chair opened the meeting with apologies for scheduling the RTF meeting during Spring Break when many faculty are away.

1) Update on Santa Fe / UF cooperation to recruit new technical lab staff. JB invited two faculty from the Santa Fe Biotechnology program to attend the UF Research Festival along with 6 current Santa Fe College students. This was an initial step at making Santa Fe students aware of all the job opportunities available at UF and hopefully starting to build a recruitment pipeline. The next event planned is on April 20th, where graduating SF Biotechnology students will visit UF COM and participate in a "speed matching" style event, where they can meet and talk with biomedical/clinical PIs and Staff from Shands Labs and PathLabs.

2) LabArchives ELN Town Hall sessions. To help accelerate the uptake of the LabArchives ELN, RTF discussed and agreed to host a series of Town Hall Zoom meetings in early April. These would include a 5-10 minutes overview from a LabArchives rep (i.e., Linda Cubias), followed by live demonstrations of how ELNs are used by existing users (a mixture of PIs and trainees). The plan is to do one at 8:00-9:00 and one at 4:30-5:30. RTF discussed the possibility of planning one exclusively for clinicians (pending collaboration and approval with the IRB). We will also solicit questions to be submitted before the town hall, so we can answer them in a Q&A format and start building an online FAQ (Cory Brunson has already started to compile the FAQ).

The main goals are to: 1) communicate the benefits of using the UF - sponsored ELN, 2) establish best practices for using ELN and converting from paper lab books to ELN, 3) describe how it will help to comply with the new NIH FAIR regulations and new requirements for NIH submissions, 4) highlight how clinical researchers can also benefit from ELN (pending IRB approval - potentially a separate event).

JB will draft the email to advertise the event. To maximize memberships to LabArchives, this event will be open to the entire UF community (from Faculty to Fellows, Grad Students, Undergrad Students, Techs, etc.).

3) Strategic Plan for Resilient Communities-Grant Support Mechanisms. As part of the COM-Strategic Plan, there is an opportunity to reimagine how faculty can be supported in achieving their research goals. RTF discussed multiple levels of support, for example:

a) larger pilot grant support (~\$25 - 50k) to aid investigators testing new research ideas that could lead to a competitive application for federal funding (as an example). RTF notes that the UF-Office of Research supports relatively few pilot grants.

b) smaller, agile funding (~\$1-2k) that investigators can use to help with immediate funding for small projects/training needs. This would be an iteration of the previous COM-Bolster Bucks program. PC will provide the documentation.

c) financial support for journal publication charges.

JB will communicate these ideas to RAC, with drafted templates (based on the previously successful Bolster Bucks).

4) **COM-wide Seminar Calendar-follow up.** Currently, there is very little coordination between departments, except for COM-wide emails that are easily missed amongst the deluge of other emails. MS has been investigating how a COM-wide calendar could be enacted; however, it appears that UF-IT may be already working on a bespoke software solution.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45pm. Next meeting 4/20/2023.