

Facilities & Research Infrastructure Sub-Committee

Meeting minutes: May 21, 2019, 1-2PM

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees: David Simmons (chair), Tim Forrest, Shaun Walters, Darryl Whitehead, Sean Millard, Oliver Rawashdeh, Melanie Flint, Harmony Rose, Brittany Campbell (RDO)

Apologies: Melissa Reichelt

2. Business arising from last meeting

- Revised Terms of Reference ratified by sub-committee
- David to work on 5 year plan and circulate
- Minutes from inaugural meeting (16/4/2019) approved

Action: David to draft 5 year plan document

3. Other business

Flo Cytometer:

- Flo cytometer usage has increased, great to see this increase with more training
- Increased usage means less availability and bookings required in advance, although the committee would like to see more data on usage
- Rod has a flo cytometer that currently needs to be repaired, but if completed, this could take some of the burden off of the other machine:
 - Estimated cost of repair is \$5,000 (to be assessed further)
 - If this cost is covered by school, the equipment would then be reclassified as school equipment and this needs to be further discussed with Rod (proposed that he would not have to pay to use the machine, but conditions should be in writing)
 - Committee agrees that for this cost it would be worthwhile to pursue and would like to know: history of machine (age, service contract etc) and total cost of repair and moving; committee would also like to know if others will use the machine? If acquired, proposed plan is to increase training on this machine and charge slightly less to use it

Actions:

- Shaun to follow-up for assessment to determine total cost of repairs, moving, and lifespan of the machine and discuss with Rod on whether or not he would be happy with the machine being moved and reclassified as school equipment
- David to propose to Research Committee

4. Report from Core Facilities

Update - Search for Brooke replacement:

- Position advertised as a 1 year contract with idea for longer term commitment; applications closed Friday (20 received, mix of SBMS, UQ “external”, and external applicants)
- Panel: Shaun Walter, David Simmons, Sarah Piper, James Springfield (IMB)
- Interviews to be held next week, selection panel to shortlist, aiming for 3-5 interviews

Ian Potter Application:

- Currently, computing systems are weak and complex images crash system
- IMB are putting together an Ian Potter Medical Research grant to get computer infrastructure that can do large image rendering and data crunching
- Asking SBMS to support grant (\$5,000)
- Gives SBMS accessibility (training and new system to be rotated/moved every 2 months); this equipment could be a useful teaching resource with potential strategic value
- Committee moves to recommend support of this application through to the Research Committee

Action: David to propose Ian Potter application to the Research Committee with sub-committee support

IPF update:

New Echo machine:

- Training has commenced. There has been open invitation for training and machine is on booking system, but committee would like to know how this can be more widely advertised and what charges will apply for usage

UQBR involvement in IPF:

- New caging in the mouse room- smaller footprint and other benefits; but at the moment males and females are housed in the same room and researchers should be made aware
- No one to check animals on the weekend, other than the individual researchers, but this is inefficient and care/capability is uncertain; also no backup for Mel when she is sick or away
- UQBR has established protocols and requires training through them (e.g. strict training and ethics checks) and sometimes there is a wait time (less accessible); cost is also slightly higher (\$7.50 per cage rather than \$5.00)
- Virus work needs to be conducted in a UQBR facility (UQ policy)- current permission for one researcher to do it in IPF, but this may not roll forward to others who would also like to do this
- Mel would like IPF to be under UQBR umbrella, but in previous chats with Kevin there was not the capacity to take on IPF (especially on weekends), but this may have changed. Other solutions?

Actions:

- Echo machine advertising and usage charges - to be determined
- UQBR involvement in IPF: David to further discuss with Mel and Kevin

5. Upcoming meeting

Next sub-committee meeting: to be scheduled for 1.5 hours