

Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Bylaws and Responsibilities

Revised April 2017

1. The primary function of the RAC is to make recommendations to the Dean on issues related to strategic and policy issues and research program infrastructure.
2. Composition. The RAC shall include 12 distinguished faculty members with staggered, three-year terms. Members will be appointed by the Dean, who may solicit nominations from the faculty at large. The RAC shall include representation of Clinical and Basic Science Departments and Centers. An effort should be made to make the RAC representative of different Departments and Centers over time. Ex officio, non-voting members of the RAC shall include the SOM Senior Associate and Associate Deans for Research, Chief Operating Officer, SOM Director of Research Infrastructure, and Assistant Dean for Research Administration, and a representative of the Vice President for Research. The RAC shall be staffed by the Assistant Dean for Research.
3. Leadership. The RAC will be led by a Chair with a one-year term, normally assisted by a co-Chair who will become the Chair the following year. These individuals will be selected by the Dean. Insofar as possible, the Chair will alternate between members of clinical departments and basic science departments/centers.
4. Meetings. The RAC shall meet once per month, or as needed, between September and May.
5. The RAC should place a high priority on strengthening our clinical and translational research programs, and ensuring that appropriate core facilities are available. On an annual basis, the RAC shall review the operations, administrative organization, and budgets of the research cores. The SOM Director of Research Infrastructure will be responsible for facilitating this process.
6. The RAC will review annually the services provided by the Graduate Programs Office and BIMS and MSTP graduate programs.
7. Annually, the RAC shall solicit requests for shared equipment from research cores and groups of SOM investigators and recommend specific purchases to the Dean.
8. As requested by the Dean, the RAC shall make recommendations on developing mechanisms to ensure more effective partnering and integration of basic, translational, and clinical research programs, and bolstering institutional capabilities for translating basic research findings into improved clinical care.
9. As requested by the Dean, the RAC will develop guidelines and policies for certain activities affecting SOM research, such as the use of research animals, management of animal facilities, conflict of interest and other SOM research policies, etc.
10. The Dean may ask the RAC to identify areas for strategic investment, e.g., in research programs of Clinical Departments to address major institutional research initiatives, or disease-oriented research areas.
11. The Dean may ask the RAC to identify or evaluate areas for strategic collaborations and investments across grounds.