

**Research Alliance of Missouri
Minutes for February 10, 2009**

The Research Alliance of Missouri (RAM) met in regular session by conference call on Tuesday, February 10, 2009 beginning at 3:05 p.m.

The following members and staff were in attendance:

RAM Members Attending:

Dr. Nasser Arshadi	University of Missouri-St. Louis
Dr. Maria DiStefano	Truman State University
Ms. Karla Goldstein	Donald Danforth Plant Science Center (alternate for Dr. Roger Beachy)
Ms. Jane Johnson	A.T. Still University of Health Sciences
Ms. Cindy Kiel	Washington University
Dr. Krishna Krishnamurthy	Missouri University of Science and Technology-Rolla
Dr. Mike Nichols	University of Missouri
Mr. Dennis Roedemeier	Southeast Missouri State University
Ms. Victoria Steel	University of Central Missouri
Dr. Raymond Tait	St. Louis University
Mr. Frank Veeman	Northwest Missouri State University/SBDC

Staff Attending:

Mr. Rob Monsees	Missouri Technology Corporation
Mr. Bill Anderson	Missouri Technology Corporation
Ms. Stacey Hirst	Department of Economic Development

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Krishnamurthy called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. A quorum was established with eleven members or alternates participating in the meeting including Dr. Arshadi, Dr. DiStefano, Ms. Goldstein, Dr. Johnson, Ms. Kiel, Chair Krishnamurthy, Dr. Nichols, Mr. Roedemeier, Ms. Steel, Dr. Tait and Mr. Veeman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chair Krishnamurthy moved for approval of the minutes, which were distributed to the members prior to the meeting, and asked for revisions. The following resolution was moved by Dr. DiStefano, seconded by Mr. Roedemeier and unanimously approved:

RESOLVED, the minutes from the December 9, 2008 RAM meeting is approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Chair Krishnamurthy asked Dr. Arshadi to give the Treasurer's Report, which was distributed to the members prior to the meeting. Dr. Arshadi reviewed the balance sheet and asked for questions. Hearing no questions the following resolution was moved by Dr. Nichols, seconded by Dr. Tait and unanimously approved.

RESOLVED, the Treasurer's Report for the RAM is approved as submitted.

Dr. Arshadi also reported on the Midwest Regional Outreach, Science, & Scholarship Summit: Leadership in Interdisciplinary, Networking & Collaboration (LINC) held February 2-4, 2009 of which RAM was a sponsor at the \$10,000 level. Three RAM institutions were also sponsors, Washington University, St. Louis University, and University of Missouri-St. Louis, and 10 universities participated from Missouri, Illinois and Iowa. Industry representation and support included Pfizer, Monsanto and Boeing. Federal agencies such as NSF, NIH, DOE, NASA and others were represented. Dr. Arshadi indicated that the event was quite successful and the Chair noted that all of the presentations were available online. They thought many funding opportunities would be available once the federal stimulus bill was enacted so people should be ready to submit proposals.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR:

The following resolution was moved Chair Krishnamurthy seconded by Dr. DiStefano, and unanimously approved:

RESOLVED, the RAM hereby approves Ms. Cindy Kiel to serve as the Vice Chair for the RAM.

COLLABORATION ON RFPS FOR FEDERAL RESEARCH GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:

Chair Krishnamurthy noted that Dr. Rob Duncan was not on the call and moved to the next agenda item.

INPUT TO MTC FOR THE OPPORTUNITY FUND:

The Chair then moved to the next agenda item and asked Director Monsees to lead the discussion on ways for the RAM to provide input to the MTC Board for potential projects for the MTC Opportunity Fund. Monsees gave a brief overview of the establishment of the fund and an update on the current status. Monsees stated that there were opportunities for RAM to educate MTC Board members on the strengths of member institutions and complimentary federal research lab or center opportunities. Another way for RAM to help advance this issue is to have more interaction with the Life Science Research Board.

Following a brief discussion, Chair Krishnamurthy stated he would have a conversation with the MTC Chair, Greg Steinhoff, regarding the Opportunity Fund and how the RAM might be more involved with the project.

Ms. Kiel commented regarding her office's Strategic Applications Support Services (SASS) and stated that the office will help to prepare proposals and budgets for those large collaboration projects along with coordinating other issues such as data sharing, intellectual property issues, etc.

UPDATE ON RAM PROJECTS:

Chair Krishnamurthy asked Monsees to give an update on the RAM newsletter project. Monsees reported that staff was trying to coordinate with the University of Missouri School of Journalism; however, the project was delayed by the departure of Misty Snodgrass who was staff lead on the project. The MTC Staff were working to reignite the RAM newsletter going forward. Monsees indicated that it may be necessary to designate a committee or point person to determine newsletter content focus.

Chair Krishnamurthy moved to the next item and led a discussion on identifying future RAM projects. He noted that a solicitation for an NSF Engineering Research Center should be released in another month. Mr. Roedemeier asked if any members or staff had heard if Governor Nixon's office had a desire to put items on the RAM agenda. No members were aware of any such desire.

Chair Krishnamurthy volunteered that he would speak to Department of Economic Development Director Linda Martinez and possibly invite her to speak at the next RAM meeting. Mr. Roedemeier clarified that he would like to know if the new administration had a research agenda or any specific technologies on which they wanted to focus and indicated the RAM should try to work in coordination with them if possible. Monsees reported that there was a desire by the administration to undertake a strategic planning process on high tech industries and technology-based economic development. He indicated that RAM should definitely be involved in that process and future RAM projects could be identified during that process.

Chair Krishnamurthy then gave an update on the University of Missouri Energy Summit. Planning for the summit being held on April 22nd and 23rd is going very well. The event website went live last week. Day 1 will feature a keynote from T. Boone Pickens. Day 2 will include faculty presentations, breakout sessions and a poster session. The program should be finalized very soon. Dr. Nichols has postcards for RAM members to distribute. Chair Krishnamurthy expressed his hope that this would become an annual event as well as the Life Sciences Summit being planned for fall.

Chair tabled the discussion to be led by Dr. Duncan on Collaboration on RFPs for Federal Research Grant Opportunities until the next RAM meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

The next RAM meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2009 in Columbia. Further details will follow regarding time and location.