

DATE: April 28, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: M. Katherine Banks, Ph.D.
President

FROM: Jack Baldauf, Ph.D.
Working Group Chair



SUBJECT: Implementation Memo – Working Group # 30

Recommendation to be Implemented: Shift the research administrative management of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (CVMBBS) research grants and facilities to AgriLife exclusively. In addition, the working group will determine which facilities will be reassigned to AgriLife.

Strategic Considerations: Working Group #30 (WG30) was charged with:

- (a) Determine which CVMBBS research facilities will be reassigned from CVMBBS to AgriLife Research and
- (b) Develop an implementation plan for the routing of all CVMBBS proposals through AgriLife Research.

(a) Determine which CVMBBS research facilities will be reassigned from CVMBBS to AgriLife Research:
The WG30 identified research areas for initial transfer consideration.

Logistical Issues Addressed: A total of approximately 718,063 sq. ft. of space was assessed during this review. Initial elements included specific occupants, function, percent occupancy related to research, teaching, clinical, service and other functions, as well as area of college research emphasis of facility (Infection, Immunity & Epidemiology; Diagnostic & Therapeutic, Toxicology, Physiology & Developmental Biology, and Biomedical Genomics & Bioinformatics).

Non-CVMBBS facilities, were removed from consideration given that they were not part of the charge. The WG30 also removed from consideration those facilities having less than 50% of a research component. The WG30 also determined that facilities with greater than 50% research designation would remain for further consideration.

Further information was gathered for 6 remaining facilities to better understand the following elements: the type of the facility (Individual PI or core facility), entity responsible for management, and the entities the facilities support. Note that a core facility is defined herein as a facility used by a broad internal /external community rather than an individual PI.

The WG30 also reviewed all facilities located at the Veterinary Medical Park to cross reference possible facilities and animal care elements. A process similar to that discussed above was used to assess the data. The WG30 determined that no additional facilities should be considered other than the 6 identified above.

The WG30 determined that all noncore facilities would be removed from further consideration. Those facilities identified as potential core facilities were further assessed for transfer consideration.

The WG30 gathered and reviewed additional information (rate studies, budgets, staffing, equipment and subsidies) for the remaining five facilities under consideration. One additional review of other existing facilities was conducted to ensure completeness of the assessment. Data similar to the 5 facilities above was requested for the Trace Elements facility to better understand the functionality of that facility.

The discussion centered on whether these facilities function as core facilities or as expanded PI laboratories. The consensus is that for the purpose of this assessment only, that each facility operates more closely aligned to an expanded PI specific effort rather than an AgriLife Research Core facility.

Recommendation Resolution: Based on the completed analysis, WG30 recommends that facilities currently adloc'd to CVMBS remain with CVMBS and that no facilities are transferred to AgriLife Research. The committee noted, however, that many facilities reviewed present CVMBS with an opportunity for significant growth, expanded capacity, provided there are focused strategic plans and investment for these facilities.

(b) Development of an implementation plan for the routing of all CVMBS proposals through AgriLife Research: As background, PIs within VetMed have had the option to route proposals through the university OR through AgriLife Research. The routing decision was that of the Principal Investigator. Presently, about an equal number of proposals are routing through TAMU or AgriLife Research. Implementation of this recommendation will result in nearly all proposals being routed through AgriLife Research with no new proposals routed through the university.

Logistical Issues Addressed:

1. **Proposal Process:** Based on discussion with Sponsored Research Services (SRS), the proposal process remains the same and will be seamless for SRS managed accounts. The SRS personnel currently engaged in the proposal process will remain the same.
2. **IDC Distribution:** The existing IDC distribution policy differs for AgriLife Research compared to that for the university because AgriLife is integrally linked with only one college – the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (COALS). The current distribution is as follows:
 - a. AgriLife: PI (10%), Department (15%), College (0%), RDF (15%), Member (60%).
 - b. University: PI (10%), Department (15%), College (19.75%), RDF (15%), Member (40.25%).

Note that the CVMBS currently elects to distribute the College IDC portion directly to the PI and department. These funds would no longer be available given the current AgriLife IDC distribution model.

3. **Change in funding distribution:** Rerouting of proposals from Texas A&M University to AgriLife will result in an average of 121 proposals that typically would be submitted through the university to now be submitted through AgriLife Research. This change, in turn, will result in an estimated annual IDC redistribution of \$1.3M from the University to AgriLife.

4. **Clinical Trials:** Current practice is that such submissions fall into the “other” category and require an IDC rate of 30%.
5. **Proposals with PI’s from multiple entities:** AgriLife no longer requires subcontracts for interdisciplinary submissions through SRS, thus the change will not inhibit multi-entity submissions.
6. **Contracts, MOUs, NDAs and other agreements:** Although not part of the original WG30 charge the working group realized that a uniform routing process was important for other research related functions to simplify pathways and procedures for individual PIs. To this end WG30 proposes that the initial MGT recommendation be expanded to include MOUs, MOAs, NDAs and other agreements in addition to proposal submission and management.
7. **Research support:** Effectively, this MGT recommendation adds 2 clinical and 3 research departments to the purview of Texas A&M Agrilife with the CVMBS. It is anticipated that the Provost, VPR, and VPAA will treat COALS and CVMBS similarly in terms of startup and other research support. It is expected that AgriLife Research will contribute to research faculty startup funds.
8. **Rules and Standard Administrative Procedures:** System Policy 15.01 Research Agreements will need to be modified to reflect the management change of CVMBS proposals and awards from the university to AgriLife.

Recommendation Resolution: A total of 177 proposals were submitted since June 1, 2021, of which 79 are proposed as TAMU. The following implementation strategy is recommended:

1. **New Submissions:** All new proposals, contracts, MOUs, etc. would be formally submitted through AgriLife Research as soon as possible, but no later than 1 August. The WG30 preference is for the transition to happen quickly given the likelihood that proposals submitted now will likely be awarded in late summer or early fall. However, the WG30 realize that time is required for approval of the recommendations. Note, however, that the WG30 encourages SRS to informally discuss with the PIs the submission of proposals through AgriLife rather than the university, commencing immediately.
2. **New Awards:** Awards of previously submitted proposals will remain as submitted. Proposals submitted through the university will be managed by the university. The WG30 has concerns that changing the institution at the time award could significantly delay the award or even place the award at risk of funding reconsideration.
3. **Existing Awards:** Existing awards will continue to be managed by the awarding entity through the award life-cycle or renewal. The WG30 discussed the possibility of transferring existing awards from the university to AgriLife Research, but determine that the most effective approach would be for existing awards to be managed by the entity to which the award was made.
4. **Renewal of Existing Awards:** Renewal of existing university awards will be transitioned to AgriLife Research at the time of renewal submission. Exceptions to this process would be limited to existing awards that are significant (e.g. NIH P-grants and T-32) and long standing (>5 years) programs.



(c) Summary of Key Logistical Issues to be Completed

1. **Resource requirements:** No additional resources are required for implementation of the recommendations.
2. **Communication Plan:** The WG30 presented the above recommendations to the CVMBS PIs and CVMBS executive committee for reaction and comments.
3. **Rules/SAPs:** System Policy 15.01 Research Agreements will need to be modified to reflect the management change of CVMBS proposals and awards from the university to AgriLife.
4. **Budget Implications:** The attached budget worksheet indicates no financial impact relative to unfunded expenses, however, budget calculations related to IDC will be different, and will be managed by AgriLife.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M. K. Banks'.

May 22, 2022

M. Katherine Banks, Ph.D.
President

Date

Attachment: Work Group Unfunded Needs

Base Budget Unfunded Expenses



Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4 Year 5

Priority	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount	Description and Justification	Unit Needing Funding
1	N/A					There are no base budget implications to report.	
2							
3							
4							
5							
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Total	

Working Group #30 Vet Med Research Grants and Facilities

Submitted by: Dr. Jack Baldauf

Date: April 28, 2022

One Time Unfunded Expenses



Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4 Year 5

Priority	Year 1 Amount	Year 2 Amount	Year 3 Amount	Year 4 Amount	Year 5 Amount	Description and Justification	Unit Needing Funding
1	N/A					There are no one time unfunded expenses to report.	
2							
3							
4							
5							
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Total	

Working Group #30 Vet Med Research Grants and Facilities

Submitted by: Dr. Jack Baldauf

Date: April 28, 2022

Budget Worksheet
Fiscal Year

Expenses

Salaries -Non Faculty	_____	
Salaries - Faculty	_____	-
Unall Salaries Faculty	_____	-
Unall Salaries - Non Faculty	_____	-
Longevity Pay	_____	-
Wages	_____	-
Fringe Benefits	_____	-
Utilities	_____	-
Scholarships & Fellowships	_____	-
Capital Equipment (8xxx)	_____	-
Operations & Maintenance	_____	-
Total Expenses	_____	-