

Meeting of Leadership of the Open Access Initiative – Jan. 18, 2019, 10:00-12:00 PM

at The University of Chicago, Animal Resources Center, Office of Shared Research Facilities, 5841 S. Maryland Ave., Chicago, IL 60637

In attendance:

UIC – Rich Minshall, Luisa DiPietro, Chunfang Dai

NU – Phil Hockberger, Andy Ott, Aaron Rosen

UC – George Langan, Angie Charles

I. Discussion of FY18 usage data – a major rationale for eliminating the indirect (F&A) cost from rates charged to researchers at partner institutions is the premise that there is equivalent, reciprocal use of core facilities that balances out the loss of F&A revenue across institutions. In general, this is the case and justifies the practice. Some facilities are used by a significant number of researchers at partner institutions (see a-f) and demonstrate the value of the OAI to researchers. At present, cumulative usage across institutions does not pose a financial burden for partner institutions.

- a. NU use of UC cores - notably Functional Genomics + Cellular Screening = \$247K
- b. NU use of UIC cores - notably DNA Services = \$126K
- c. UIC use of NU cores - notably NUANCE + NUSeq = \$74K
- d. UIC use of UC cores - notably Functional Genomics + Transgenics = \$68K
- e. UC use of UIC cores - notably Mass Spectrometry/Metab/Proteo = \$101K
- f. UC use of NU cores - notably NUSeq = \$50K

II. UIUC partnership – John Towns and Dave Richardson (UIUC) organized a conference call on Dec 17 with leadership of the OAI. They expressed interest in the possibility of joining the OAI. Phil explained that this was feasible if there was sufficient usage of UIUC core facilities by our investigators AND if UIUC was able to collect this data and share it with us on an annual basis. Dave indicated that he would collect the information for FY18 and share it with us. The group agreed to meet in late January to go over the data and discuss whether joining the OAI was feasible. (Note: we have not received any data so far, and a follow-up meeting has not yet been scheduled).

In the meantime, we have collected FY18 usage data of UIUC researchers using cores at CBC institutions: UC = \$2054; UIC = \$3500; NU = \$2065. This data indicates that UIUC researchers do not use our core facilities very much, and it begs the question whether it makes sense to partner with them. We discussed whether there might be other reasons for their interest in the OAI, e.g., for current or future UIUC grant proposals, anticipated increased usage in the future, faculty recruitment/retention needs. We also recognize that one of our core strengths is biomedical facilities, and that is not one of theirs. A major obstacle for UIUC researchers, however, is the distance and parking in Chicago. Nevertheless, many facilities are service-oriented, and samples can be easily mailed.

We agreed to continue discussions with UIUC and to be cognizant of the need for an exit strategy should the partnership fail to provide value to researchers or they are unable to fulfill their obligations.

III. Cryo-EM update – the recent purchase of 3 cryo instruments in UC's Electron Microscopy Facility has researchers at NU and UIC wondering if the facility plans to allow access to them? George reported that the instruments are still in their crates, and won't be set up until renovation of space is completed in March or April. The intention is to make the instruments available to outside researchers.

IV. **Biacore 8K update** – UIC’s Biophysics Core is submitting a DPI grant proposal today for this instrument. The cost is \$380K, but the DPI limit is \$250K. Rich is planning to request the difference from the CBC or request internal funds. It will be used to replace their T200 instrument which has become too expensive to operate, but will likely remain and used for training purposes. UC also has submitted an internal proposal for a Biacore 8K. NU does not have plans to purchase one.

V. **NUcore discussion** – Phil asked whether George’s team would be interested in using NUcore for managing transactions in core facilities? This is an open-source software platform developed by Table Xi for NU and other institutions (including UIC). Angie noted that UC currently uses an in-house system but are exploring commercial systems (e.g., iLabs, Stratacore, Idea Elan). Phil noted that the NSF-supported SHyNE grant (NU and UC) has encountered difficulty with generating reports for NSF due to use of different systems. Another joint NSF proposal is in preparation (Margaret Gardel, PI – UC Physics), and she is wondering whether using NUcore might make the reporting process easier? We agreed that this concern should not drive purchasing decisions. Phil noted that iLabs is the industry standard and has supported travel awards for his business course, even though NU does not use their product. Rich mentioned that UIC is currently migrating to iLabs to accommodate expanding needs. There was consensus that working with vendors to create a reporting module across platforms could be the ideal solution.

VI. **ReLODE discussion** – Aaron described an internal loan program at NU that allows facilities to purchase an instrument that replaces an old workhorse instrument, or duplicates another instrument in the facility that is heavily used. Users are charged a depreciation fee for use of the instrument to repay the loan over 8-10 yrs. Phil agreed to provide additional information about the program to George and Rich.

VII. **Indirect costs and UBI** – partner institutions charge users from other academic institutions an indirect (F&A) cost for services. At each institution, cores retain these costs as additional revenue. The revenue collected from external users (academic and non-academic) may be subject to IRS taxes under unrelated business income (UBI). Aaron shared NU’s strategy for determining whether the income was taxable or not.