

Senate Growth and Development Committee  
Meeting Minutes 10.28.16  
10:00-11:00am  
Senate Conference Room, Hall Building

Present: Robert Bird, David Benson, Carolyn Lin, Min Lin, Tracie Borden, Freddy Santiago, Faquir Jain, Katrina Higgins, Nick Ferron, Kylene Perras

Guest: Marc Lalande, Professor and chairman of the Department of Genetics and Genome Sciences at the School of Medicine and director of the Stem Cell Institute and Institute for Systems Genomics.

Dr. Lalande briefly retraced the history of the Institute for Systems Genomics (ISG), arising out its relationship with Jackson Laboratory and UConn in part to build a substantial center of genomics which was approved by the board of trustees in November 2012. The ISG reports directly to the Provost's Office.

Initial plans involved eleven recruitments in genomics between ISG and departments across the university. So far ISG has three appointments with Molecular & Cell Biology, Genetics and Genome Science, and Computer Science and Engineering. The relationship between ISG and schools and departments should be formalized as appointments continue.

Ongoing initiatives include a new MS program Genetic and Genomic Counseling. As more mutations appear, more counselors will be necessary to provide public counseling. In continuance of workshops of other events, there will be a workshop focusing on Autism with various departments on December 13, 2016. There is also a joint technology facility that focuses on single cell genomics and biology. Fifteen UConn labs that working with JAX in this area.

There are also efforts to coordinate and form a nucleus of data analysis, which can be difficult due to the sheer quantity of data used. The goal is to help faculty write grants and get their data analyzed effectively.

Some challenges and opportunities for growth is the launching of a Ph.D. program, which has been put on hold for lack of necessary RA slots to get that program off the ground. Another challenge is that ISG lacks a direct revenue stream at the moment. Grant money goes to the department, dean, and faculty with no portion returning back to the institute. The institute cannot operate fiscally like a department. The professional science MS degree in Genetic and Genomic Counseling could be a potential future source.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.