Senate Research Committee Organizational Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2012; 3:00 PM
315 Dahlberg Hall

Attendees: Amber Amari, Pam Barr, Brenda Chapman, Sarah Cook, Michael Decker, Florian Enescu, Jan Ivery, Beth Jones, Paul Katz, Steve Manson, Mike Metzler, Ike Okosun, Don Reitzes, Ed Rigdon, Bill Robinson, Mary Ann Romski, Mary Stuckey, Monica Swahn, P.C. Tai, Kris Varjas, William Walsh, Jim Weyhenmeyer, and Leslie Wolf

Absentees: Paul Alberto, Tim Bartness, Fred Brooks, Laura Burtle, John Decker, Monica Diaz, Dabney Dixon, Don Edwards, Paul Gallimore, Vijay Ganji, Robert Harrison, Suri Iyer, Bala Ramesh, Renee Schatteman, Rose Sevcik (Chair), Andrey Shilnikov, Carol Winkler, and Yichuan Zhao

Minutes: Rose Williams

1. Mary Ann Romski is chairing the committee since Rose Sevcik is unable to attend today’s meeting.

2. Mary Ann introduced Rose Williams from the Vice President’s Office and she will be responsible for taking minutes for now on. June Houston is working on a part-time basis, and her new schedule does not permit her to attend these afternoon meetings. Motion made and Senate approved to officially thank June Houston for her service on the committee.

3. The April 30, 2012 minutes were approved.

4. Mary Ann discussed nominating the GSURF representatives for this year to the board. Motion was made and Senate approved to nominate Rose Sevcik, P.C. Tai, and Susan Laury to serve this year.

   Don Reitzes requested to Jim Weyhenmeyer, Chair of GSURF Foundation, to explore the possibility of adding the Chair of the Senate Research Committee as a fourth member. Jim agreed upon it.

5. The research priorities topic was moved to the next committee meeting in September.

6. Jim Weyhenmeyer discussed, elaborately, the conflicts of interest policy that is effective August 24 on all new proposals, an OMB federal requirement. This expands on disclosing financial activities as it relates to PI and key personnel. Information is being disseminated via the website and includes educational modules.

   Brenda Chapman discussed the disclosure form as it relates to the PIs and PIs’ key personnel who are involved with protecting design, conduct, and reporting of sponsored research. Additionally, an extension is permissible only for non-PHS projects and is used for extenuating circumstances only. This is not retroactive to current grants and only applies when it is time for renewal.

7. Brenda discussed the state contract has been signed and currently waiting on the system configuration. A decision was made to implement the IRB module first, since the IRB Wise system experienced major technical problems. The IRB module should be fully implemented by
February 2013. The conflict of interest has been pushed back and tentatively IACUC is scheduled for next spring.

8. Monica Swahn discussed the new enhancements for the internal grants program as it relates to research initiation, faculty mentor, and scholarly support grants. The changes have increased funding to $25K, approved course releases for spring and fall semesters at actual costs for P/T instructors, and submission of a progress report increased to 2 to 3 times a year. These changes will be in effect by the end of this semester. However, the grant submission date for January will remain the same. Furthermore, Monica will be meeting with the internal grants subcommittee to discuss other strategies going forward.

9. Jim discussed commissioning a small working group to review the current grants administration structure and to determine our benchmark for reaching the $100 million dollar portfolio by 2017. We are reviewing various models that includes fully centralized, fully decentralized, and federated. The next step is to engage an outside consultant to help create the business model and this will include costs associated with each model.

10. No new business to report.

11. Mary Ann announced, this Wednesday morning and Thursday afternoon, there will be a workshop called Formula for Grants Success; if anyone is interested, please feel free to join us.

The next meeting will be held on September 17 at 3:00 PM in 315 Dahlberg Hall.