

Senate Research Committee Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2014; 3:00 PM
315 Dahlberg Hall

Attendees: Amber Amari, Andy Butler, Brenda Chapman, Joan Cranford, Dabney Dixon, Laura Fredrick, Susanna Greer, Baotong Gu, Joseph Hurley, Beth Jones, Carrie Manning, Unil Perera, Sushil Prasad, Vincent Rehder, Don Reitzes, Ed Rigdon, Laura Salazar, Lionel Scott, Rose Sevcik (Chair), Kelly Stout, Jelena Subotic, Dan Weiskopf and Jim Weyhenmeyer

Absentees: Pam Barr, Tim Bartness, Sarah Cook, Paul Katz, Shelley Linens, Bill Robinson, Mary Ann Romski, Anna Stewart, Mary Stuckey, Kris Varjas, Leslie Wolf, Yichuan Zhao and Alan Ziobrowski

Minutes: Rose Baldwin

1. The September 15 minutes were approved.
2. Dr. Chapman delivered the following updates:
 - a. The *iRIS* system is making good progress in integrating the new IACUC module. Pilot testing should begin next week. However, the module will not be rolled out until the beginning of the next semester. Overall, it should be fairly easy to use for researchers and administrators.
 - b. The expedited IRB review board is progressing well. Overall, a 71% protocol approval rate was reported for the first 3 months.
 - c. As a reminder, the *CITI* program will replace the existing training modules with one basic module on November 25. A document was provided. Individuals who have not completed training by that time will need to restart their entire training with the new module. Dr. Weyhenmeyer stated that another email will be distributed to faculty and staff regarding this change. Dr. Stout commented she will also send a reminder to associate deans for research to disseminate information to their respective colleges.
3. Chair Sevcik reported on examples where individuals have completed their training in the *CITI* program and it goes undocumented in the system. Dr. Chapman responded that the system is not feeding into *iRIS* directly and this issue should be directed to Dr. Shelia White. Information will be entered into the system manually. Ultimately the vendor will need to resolve it. Dr. Chapman stated that she will meet with Dr. White to identify an alternative solution, as well.
4. Dr. Rehder provided an overview of the work that a subcommittee of the Budget Committee has done regarding graduate students' fees. In comparison to other universities, both within and outside of the University System, some fees are generally higher. Pending a complete review of the financial implications of such an action, the subcommittee has identified a plan to request that advanced graduate students (e.g., individuals completing work on their dissertations) be eligible for partial or full fee waiver packages. The members of the Research Committee considered a motion to support this proposed plan and voted unanimously to endorse it.
5. Chair Sevcik presented on an issue that the committee was asked by the Budget Committee to consider. The issue centers on obtaining a tuition waiver for graduate students who have successfully earned prestigious awards from external agencies, such as NSF, the NIH (NRSAs) and the Ford Foundation. In past years, faculty and staff report

that students considered declining the awards because of the complexities in processing them, especially in terms of the tuition and related fees. Dr. Weyhenmeyer stated that he would work to identify a more efficient way to manage awards and update members with any new developments. Chair Sevcik announced that a working group will be created to establish a process and extended an invitation to members to assist with this issue.

6. Dr. Weyhenmeyer reported on the following URSA updates and a handout was provided:
 - a. The first quarter of FY15 closed nearly at \$32 million dollars. Dollars have increased by almost \$5 million from the previous year and nearly 71% are from federal sources. NIH funds represent the largest award activity, followed by NSF. Dr. Weyhenmeyer noted that units and colleges are performing at or above previous levels. This is very positive news given we are in a highly competitive environment.
 - b. We are *beta* testing the awards reporting mechanism in the GSU research portal. Anyone can drilldown on an individual budget and acquire specific information within the award on a 24-hour cycle. We should anticipate full rollout by early next year.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 17 at 3:00 PM in 315 Dahlberg Hall.