Senator Research Committee Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2015; 3:00 PM
522 Centennial Hall

Attendees: Amber Amari, Andy Butler, Brenda Chapman, Sarah Cook, Dabney Dixon, Laura Fredrick, Julia Hilliard, Paul Katz, Lawrence Kiage, Nancy Kropf, Shelley Linens, Carrie Manning, Unil Perera, Sushil Prasad, Ed Rigdon, MaryAnn Romsip, Laura Salazar, Rose A. Sevcik (Chair), Bryan Sinclair, Mary Stuckey, Jelena Subotic, Jim Weyhenmeyer, Leslie Wolf, Yusen Xia, and Ying Zhu

Absentees: Tim Bartness, Vincent Rehder, Leanne Richardson, Bill Robinson, Kelly Stout, Monica Swahn, Susan Swars, and Kris Varjas

Minutes: Rose Baldwin

1. The March 23, 2015 minutes were approved.

2. The research committee elected Dr. Rose A. Sevcik as the Chair for the new senate year.

3. Chair Sevcik discussed nominating two representatives to the GSURF Board for the new academic year and the research committee moved to approve Dr. Leslie Wolf and Dr. Paul Katz to serve as the representatives.

4. Dr. Chapman provided the following ORI updates:
   a. IRB’s year-to-date activities in expedited studies were 243 submitted with 207 approved. A handout was provided.
   b. The IACUC protocol management system of iMedRIS system is scheduled for implementation in the month of July. Also, there is software testing being conducted on the amendment piece to ensure data is migrating to the protocol efficiently. Training will be available to faculty and staff.
   c. IRB office is processing the application for AAHRP reaccreditation due on June 1 and the site visit is tentatively scheduled for early 2016.

5. Chair Sevcik requested an update on the issue related to data loss in the IRB protocol management system. Dr. Chapman replied GSU IS&T has contacted the vendor regarding the issue and is waiting on a response from them. Dr. Manning suggested that the IRB provide presentations to departments on specific recruitment procedures. Chair Sevcik responded that she will share suggestions regarding the educational piece with the IRB advisory subcommittee.

6. Dr. Weyhenmeyer reported on the following VPR updates:
   a. The year-to-date award activities are at $73 million and with noncompeting awards is $88 million. We are currently on track to attain $100 million in total grants and contracts activities at the close of fiscal year 2015.
   b. The GSU and GPC consolidation committee is making good progress and should have a recommendation to the President by the beginning of the new fiscal year. The primary recommendation will be to merge GPC’s grant activities into GSURF’s portfolio. Further, the committee is ascertaining the impact of GPC’s F&A rate on this process.

7. Dr. Weyhenmeyer shared information on a proposed university initiative called Next Generation 2nd Century with Cornerstone emphasis. The proposed plan is somewhat similar to the 2CI’s objectives and areas of focuses and funding will support all disciplines ranging from postdoctoral researchers to tenured research faculty. It will come to the committee for deliberation once a more cohesive plan is developed. Dr. Stuckey addressed the need to improve the stipend allowances and benefits for the graduate programs, especially because they are less than other
Dr. Manning offered a suggestion that the new faculty initiative be amended to allow existing faculty to apply for proposed initiative. Dr. Romski commented on the importance to integrate new and existing faculty to build a stronger and sustaining program especially in thematic areas.

8. Dr. Romski provided a brief statement that the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives are currently reviewing several major branches of science at NSF. Dr. Weyhenmeyer commented the last review entailed monetary restoration to the research program.

The next meeting will be held (if needed) on May 18, 2015 at 3:00 PM in 522 Centennial Hall.