Senate Research Committee Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2015; 3:00 PM
1199 Urban Life

Attendees: Andy Butler, Brenda Chapman, Dabney Dixon, Gregori Faroux, Laura Fredrick, Julia Hilliard, Shelley Linens, Carrie Manning, Robin Morris, Unil Perera, Leeanne Richardson, Ed Rigdon, Mary Ann Romski, Rose A. Sevcik (Chair), Kelly Stout, Mary Stuckey, Jelena Subotic, Monica Swahn, Susan Swars, Mandy Swygart-Hobaugh, and Leslie Wolf

Not present: Amber Amari, Tim Bartness, Sarah Cook, Paul Katz, Lawrence Kiage, Nancy Kropf, Vincent Rehder, Bill Robinson, Bryan Sinclair, Kris Varjas, Jim Weyhenmeyer, Yusen Xia, and Ying Zhu

Minutes: Rose Baldwin

1. The April 20, 2015 minutes were approved.

2. Dr. Morris provided an update to the committee regarding the proposed new faculty-hiring program now referred to as “Next Generation”. Based on feedback from the focus groups, the original proposal has been refined to address all pertinent areas across all colleges and to augment synergistic research teams relevant to thematic areas. The anticipated timeline to complete this working proposal is early next month. Any faculty member concerned with any portion of the proposed plan should let their departmental chairs know. New updates will be shared with the committee.

3. Mr. Faroux gave an overview on Research Solutions services that support processes involved with conducting research at Georgia State University. Included in these services are automating paper processes, self-service features, cloud vendors, compliance solutions, and high-performance computing services. He also spoke upon past initiatives that have streamlined research processes such as Cayuse and the Research Portal. Importantly, Research Solutions sponsors Open Door session, every Thursday, available to all faculty, staff, and students to address any research commuting concerns and needs.

4. Dr. Chapman provided the following ORI updates and handouts were provided:
   a. IRB FY15 activities year-end closed with a total submission of 1,087 representing an 86% approval rate (i.e., expedited, amendments, and full review protocols). Overall, research productivity has been good partly due to the expedited review board decreasing the number of submissions made to the full review board.
   b. IACUC protocol management system in iMedRIS is scheduled to fully rollout by early September. There are various online tutorials for researchers and research staff.
   c. Georgia State is scheduled to have several inspections this week. The CDC will inspect the Select Agents Program and BSL4 lab on August 18, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources will inspect the Radioactive Materials Program on August 20.

Dr. Manning brought up an ongoing IRB issue experienced by a graduate student, and potentially, this can impose upon his ability to graduate by expected date. Dr. Chapman strongly advised that the faculty member and graduate student contact her directly so that she can assess and provide a solution for it. Drs. Romski and Dixon requested to have comparative statistics on both faculty and student approval turnaround time on IRB submissions. Committee members expressed substantial concern about the length of time involved in some reviews and the consequences for students complete their theses and dissertations by the expected graduation date. Chair Sevcik suggested further that the subcommittee on the IRB obtain these data to direct us in characterizing the issues and possible solutions.
5. Dr. Stout briefly provided an update on internal grants highlighting proposed changes to the conference and scholarly support grant mechanisms. The scholarly support program will consist of two proposal options; one for pre-tenure and one for post-tenure faculty. The conference grant mechanism will no longer have a rolling deadline and applications for the current grant cycle are due October 31, 2015; or 60 days before the conference date if prior to October 31, 2015. Final drafts of these changes will be presented to the committee at the next senate meeting.

The next meeting will be held on September 21, 2015 at 3:00 PM in 522 Centennial Hall.