Senate Research Committee Meeting Minutes  
October 19, 2015; 3:00 PM  
522 Centennial Hall

Attendees: Amber Amari, Andy Butler, Brenda Chapman, Sarah Cook, Julia Hilliard, Beth Jones, Lawrence Kiage, Unil Perera, Vincent Rehder, Ed Rigdon, MaryAnn Romski, Rose A. Sevcik (Chair), Bryan Sinclair, Jelena Subotic, Kris Varjas, and Leslie Wolf

Absentees: Dabney Dixon, Florian Enescu, Laura Fredrick, Juan Galvis (SGA), Paul Katz, Shelley Linens, Jill Littrell, Carrie Manning, Leeanne Richardson, Bill Robinson, Mary Stuckey, Monica Swahn, Susan Swars, Jim Weyhenmeyer, Yusen Xia, and Ying Zhu

Minutes: Rose Sevcik

1. The September 21, 2015 minutes were approved.

2. Dr. Chapman shared data on the IRB time to review and approve applications in comparison with other accredited institutions. GSU compared very favorably in this comparison.

3. Research members discussed Goal 3 in the university’s Strategic Plan. The Plan is undergoing a midpoint review. Members were asked to comment on all initiatives within the goal. A summary of the comments as follows:
   a. Issues in the expansion of research were discussed. The breadth of faculty research was noted. Faculty range from “superstar” researcher to faculty whose focus is on teaching. It was noted that some research faculty teach less. Considering the academic structure may be broad, the university’s instructional mission and its graduate and undergraduate students must be considered.
   b. Expand funding for graduate students in the form of tuition waivers and increasing stipends was discussed. Graduate scholarships and training grants were funding mechanisms identified to enhance graduate students funding. Some faculty believe that it is more cost effective to hire postdoctoral fellows from grant funds than investing in graduate student research assistants. Looking strategically at our growth in research dollars and at our academic programs are needed. The view that graduate education needs an influx of support (e.g. undergraduate education) was expressed.
   c. Renewing and replenishing faculty beyond the Next Generation was discussed. Some concerns raised were loss of faculty (due to retirement, leaving for other universities) and the need for faculty replacement.

The following actions were offered:
   a. Incentivize collaborative interdisciplinary efforts.
   b. Create a plan to enhance research supports.
      - Included were ideas about grant development staff (pre and post) to support larger grant applications and the larger university portfolio.
   c. Create a plan to enhance research facilities:
      - Support core facilities and prepare for their replacement and or expansion.
      - Create contiguous and shared space for a diverse faculty base.

4. Committee members strongly endorsed the need for standard text about the university and its research environment that can be used for external grant applications.

5. Committee members endorsed the suggestion from Chair Sevcik that a senate proclamation be put forth to honor the late Dr. Tim Bartness. The proposed proclamation will be delivered at the upcoming senate meeting.

The next meeting will be held on November 16, 2015 at 3:00 PM in 522 Centennial Hall.