Attendees: Amber Amari, Elaine Bryan, Otto Burianek, Andy Butler, Brenda Chapman, Florian Enescu, Julia Hilliard, Beth Jones, Paul Katz, Carrie Manning, Greta Mason, Carlton Mullis, Unil Perera, Ed Rigdon, Sally Robertson, Rick Robertson, MaryAnn Romske, Anthony Sanchez, Rose A. Sevcik (Chair), Bryan Sinclair, Kelly Stout, Keith Sumas, Sharon Ware, and Leslie Wolf

Absentees: James Battey, Sarah Cook, Dabney Dixon, Laura Fredrick, Juan Galvis (SGA), Lawrence Kiage, Jill Littrell, Mike Metzler, Vincent Rehder, Leeanne Richardson, Bill Robinson, Mary Stuckey, Jelena Subotic, Monica Swahn, Susan Swars, Kris Varjas, James Weyhenmeyer, Yusen Xia, and Ying Zhu

Minutes: Rose Baldwin

1. The January 25, 2016 minutes were approved.

2. Dr. Chapman provided reminders regarding inspections and training as follows:
   a. AAALAC Reaccreditation Site Visit will be from February 18 to 19.
   b. AAHRPP Reaccreditation Site Visit will be from February 22 to 23.
   c. On March 1, ORI and Office of Graduate Programs will offer an IRB workshop for graduate students who need assistance with their IRB applications.

3. Dr. Chapman introduced the new ORI Director of Research Safety Programs, Dr. Anthony Sanchez, who will direct the biosafety, chemical, radiation, environmental, and laboratory safety programs.

4. Deputy Chief Mullis provided a report on the alarming incidents that occurred on the property of the university library. Georgia State University has taken measures to address these serious issues rigorously, and some measures included securing all exits and entrances into the library, additional security cameras, and closing the library to the public temporarily. Furthermore, President Becker authorized the university police to double the number of police officers patrolling the campus and approved purchase of high-security biometric readers that matches PantherIDs with fingerprints of faculty, staff, and students. Dr. Jones stressed fingerprints will not be stored electronically.

Dr. Romske expressed concern about security with other GSU buildings and inquired about plans for increased security at other locations. Deputy Chief Mullis answered there are no current plans to heighten security at other buildings. Mr. Robinson expressed concern with students at the GSU Perimeter campuses having limited access to library resources. Dr. Sinclair responded that GSU GALILEO will allow any student on any campus to check out library books, materials, and so forth.

5. Chair Sevcik provided a thorough update on the ongoing review of the University Strategic Plan. Dr. Wolf elaborated upon the University Strategic Plan Goal 2 that covers graduate and professional programs. Much of this goal has not changed from the original language. Modifications are to further contextualize the goal and initiatives and to invest in graduate resources that benefit the growth of scholarships and external fellowships. A proposed third initiative will be incorporated in the plan so that it will build capacity of diverse candidates. Chair Sevcik emphasized the most important piece is the overarching strategic vision of the university. The strategic plan 2011/2016 had various strategies and investments that enhanced a research culture across colleges (e.g., research centers). Today, the emphasis is on a
transdisciplinary culture that will include the creation of transdisciplinary centers. This proposed type of center will focus on cross-pollination of disciplines broadly, whereas the other research centers focus on a specific research area or theme. Additionally, there is strong intention to maintain the Provost’s fellowship program. Continuing to develop the infrastructure that will enhance research activities specifically and the effort to expand upon team science will advance our contributions in academic research as a public research university. Dr. Katz addressed the importance to review other academic investments and products such as publications and not only what pertains to grant activity. Chair Sevcik and Dr. Wolf both agreed to include this information at forthcoming meetings. Ms. Mason conveyed that faculty and instructors at GSU Perimeter campuses can aid in providing additional contexts on research in undergraduate programs. Chair Sevcik agreed to include it on the next meeting’s agenda. Committee members also had in depth discussion on initiatives instrumental to the university’s future growth such as health and medical research education; expanding partnerships with local and surrounding research universities; factoring in the Next Generation Program initiatives; and highlighting distinguished university professorships. Chair Sevcik iterated upon feedback received from many focus groups and town hall meetings this past year that helped fine tune the existing strategic plan for its remaining five years. A draft copy should be available for final comment prior to vote in the Senate meeting in April.

6. Dr. Stout announced URSA created a search committee to recruit for the vacant position of Assistant Director of Research Training. The individual who fills this position will be responsible for the educational programs, tools, and other resources related to research administration and research regulatory compliance for faculty, staff, and students. This individual also will work with the Office of Graduate Programs. It is tentatively expected that this vacancy will be filled by the end of this semester.

7. Dr. Stout announced URSA will soon launch a new website this spring semester.

The next meeting will be held on March 21, 2016 at 3:00 PM in 522 Centennial Hall.