Senate Research Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 21, 2016; 3:00 PM  
522 Centennial Hall  

Attendees: Elaine Bryan, Otto Burianek, Brenda Chapman, Florian Enescu, Candice Ferguson, Laura Fredrick, Julia Hilliard, Beth Jones, Paul Katz, Lawrence Kiage, Greta Mason, Unil Perera, Ed Rigdon, Sally Robertson, Rick Robertson, MaryAnn Romski, Rose A. Sevcik (Chair), Bryan Sinclair, Kelly Stout, Jelena Subotic, Kris Varjas, James Weyhenmeyer, and Leslie Wolf  

Absentees: Amber Amari, James Battey, Andy Butler, Sarah Cook, Dabney Dixon, Juan Galvis (SGA), Jill Littrell, Carrie Manning, Mike Metzler, Vincent Rehder, Leeanne Richardson, Bill Robinson, Mary Stuckey, Monica Swahn, Susan Swars, Yusen Xia, and Ying Zhu  

Minutes: Rose Baldwin  

1. The February 15, 2016 minutes were approved.  

2. Dr. Morris shared information on the new program called Next Generation Faculty Initiative. This faculty, and postdoctoral fellow recruitment program, a successor of the 2CI program, strives to build recognizable strength around scholarly themes while enhancing collaborative research especially of tenure-track and non-tenure track faculty on campus. The FY16 Call for Proposals went out in the fall semester requesting a letter of intent and subsequently over 17 competitive applications across various disciplines and colleges were received. Eight scholarly proposals were selected to be funded in this current cycle. Examples of awarded proposals included scholarly themes such as astroinformatics, urbanization and global research on non-communicable diseases. The funding period is annually for the next five years.  

Dr. Morris announced there was no tuition raise approved this year by the Board of Regents and added that the program was dependent on a predetermined percentage of funds available.  

3. Dr. Chapman provided the following ORI updates:  
a. AAALAC and AAHRPP Reaccreditation Site Visits were satisfactory with only a few minor observations. We should expect a decision by this summer.  
b. The IRB Office held a graduate IRB workshop on March 1; 34 students attended it. This workshop will be offered two times in the academic year.  
c. The IRB Office will manage the human protection program (e.g. protocols, CITI Training) of all the GSU Perimeter campuses effective July 1.  

4. Dr. Stout raised a concern with the issues that surround hiring personnel on sponsored program funds, and she is currently working with Human Resources to resolve issues associated with hiring staff. Further, she has provided recommendations to the Human Resources in hope the process will become more intuitive. Dr. Jones commented that there are plans to revise the Human Resource website with better guidance and procedures on hiring staff on sponsor-funded awards.  

Dr. Jones announced that the new I9 compliance software program was launched this semester and is accessible via internet.  

5. Dr. Weyhenmeyer briefly reported that FY16 Q3 closed at $81 million, approximately, in total grant and contract award activities. The previous year to date closed at $71 million. We continue to show a positive trend for fiscal yearend.
6. Dr. Fredrick stated that the University Strategic Plan update is being prepared for a final one-week comment period on the web. The goal is to bring the document forward for vote at university senate meeting scheduled for April 14.

The next meeting will be held on April 18, 2016 at 3:00 PM in 522 Centennial Hall. It will be the organizational meeting for the next senate and year.