Senate Research Committee Meeting Minutes  
October 17, 2016; 3:00 PM  
522 Centennial Hall

Attendees: Amber Amari, Lisa Armistead, Brenda Chapman, Paul Katz, Candace Kemp, Lawrence Kiage, Carrie Manning, Unil Perera, Vincent Rehder, Sally Robertson, MaryAnn Romski, Erin Ruel, Rose A. Sevcik (Chair), Kelly Stout, Mary Stuckey, Jelena Subotic, Kris Varjas, Brett Wong, and Yali Zhao


Minutes: Rose Baldwin

1. The September 19, 2016 minutes were approved.

2. Dr. Chapman reported on the following ORI’s updates:
   a. A summary on the annual Disclosure of Significant Financial Interest was presented. Overall, most financial disclosures showed no compliance risks with the exception of a small group, and GSU was viewed in good standing as it is relevant to applicable policy and regulations.
   b. The training course on Research Significant Financial Interest is a mandatory requirement for every researcher to complete prior to the engagement of sponsored project activities; the renewal course is due every four years. Those who do not complete their initial or renewal courses when due will be addressed by the Associate Deans for Research.

3. Dr. Stout provided several URSA’s updates and announcement as follows:
   a. URSA just rolled out our first in a series of new online and in-class training sessions. These will be available to anyone on the homepage of the Research Portal.
   b. A new certificate program for Research Administrator training was implemented recently and will eventually include several online training modules with more in-depth in-class sessions.
   c. URSA just announced the Calls for Proposals for RIG and Scholarly Support grants for FY2018; RIG proposals are due January 17 and Scholarly Support proposals are due January 13 in 2017.

4. Dr. Stout shared information pertaining to the annual dissertation grant competition. This academic year 18 proposals were submitted which is considered relatively low compared to previous years. Several concerns were expressed and ideas suggested to increase the number of submissions; however, Chair Sevcik made a request to Dr. Stout to provide summary metrics on dissertation proposal activities over the past 10 years or so to determine what, if anything, might need to be done.

5. Dr. Armistead presented information on the doctoral assistantships available to eligible students that included highlights of average monthly minimum and maximum stipends from known internal and external accolades. A report was circulated to the members. However, the current reporting structure presents a constant challenge to report on graduate stipends and associated activities accurately. On that premise, she has met with key individuals from the Office of Instructional Innovation & Technology who are evaluating processes to culminate information from various databases, including a cohort of disciplinary-specific programs, to provide a more robust report. Furthermore, the recommendations set by the doctoral assistantships initiative has made little progress due to limited funds and resources. Dr. Katz brought up much frustration of completing annual reports and those college reports do not get translated at the university-level or
overarching reports. Dr. Subotic proposed to improve the strategy on IDC distribution to increase the baseline on graduate student funding. Members also discussed appropriate student teaching workloads as well as reassess GSU’s current practices and models due to the proliferated size of the academic body that will ensure greater transparency and academic focus across the university. Chair Sevcik, Dr. Romski, and Dr. Armistead agreed upon further exploring plausible methods to solidify the doctoral assistantships initiative including additional support from the Provost’s office and a separate meeting will be held to continue discussion on this.

6. Dr. Armistead delivered the following Office of Graduate Programs’ announcements:
   a. The collaborative effort between the Office of Graduate Programs and University Library offers dissertation travel grants to graduate students (available once an academic semester).
   b. A joint partnership between the Office of Graduate Programs and University Research Services & Administration will hold several NSRA fellowship workshops throughout an academic year, as this effort should increase the quality of applications and stipends.
   c. Ms. Katrina Helz, who is the Fulbright Program Adviser from the Office of Graduate Programs, is available to provide assistance and guidance for the diverse graduate student population in securing external funding from a varietal of agencies (eg. federal, foundations, etc.).

The next meeting will be held on November 14, 2016 at 3:00 PM in 522 Centennial Hall.