Senate Research Committee Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2017, 3:00 PM
365 Edgewood Avenue

Attendees: Amber Amari, Andy Butler, Brenda Chapman, Paul Katz, Candace Kemp, Jill Littrell, Sally Robertson, Maryann Romski, Erin Ruel, Rose A. Sevcik (Chair), Brian Sinclair, Kelly Stout, Mary Stuckey, Jelena Subotic, Monica Swahn, James Weyhenmeyer, Brett Wong, and Yali Zhao


Minutes: Rose Baldwin

1. The December 12, 2016 minutes were approved.

2. Dr. Chapman provided the following ORI’s updates:
   a. The IRB iRIS system is tentatively scheduled to transition into a newer updated system this spring. This strategic effort is to ensure a more streamlined routing and reviewing approval process and also optimize the research administration especially to eliminate known cumbersome tasks e.g., amendments, revisions, etc. Note, the system will be unavailable for a short period of time to researchers during the system update.
   b. An announcement was made that the US Dept. of Health and Human Services has made final revisions to the federal policy for the protection of human subjects; also referred to as “the Common Rule.” The Common Rule was implemented as a step to better protect human subjects involved in research, while facilitating valuable research projects and alleviating burden, long delay, and ambiguity for researchers. Information on said topic will be forthcoming. A handout was circulated.

3. Dr. Stout provided a brief report on the recent FY18 internal grant competition for the RIG and Scholarly Support programs. A total of 59 applications were received (40 RIGs / 12 Pretenure Scholarly Support / 7 Tenured Scholarly Support). Currently, the office is assigning and scheduling the review panel; these funds will be available in FY18.

4. Dr. Weyhenmeyer delivered an overview of the university’s revenue growth of research and the research budget (FY11-FY16). In the past five years, we have promoted Georgia State's reputation as a nationally recognized urban public research university, significantly expanded single and collaborative initiatives, achieved various major milestones set within the university’s 2011/16 strategic plan, and broadened economic development activities across the state and globally. The critical areas have been articulated specifically towards (and continue to be) faculty, space, funding culture, research administrative support, and regulatory compliance. More effort has been focused on federal, rather than nonfederal, awards. As of today, the FY17 looks good, with a current award level of $92 million. The PPT presentation is available upon request.

5. Dr. Weyhenmeyer briefly reported on the FY17 OVPR budget of $8.5 million; included are direct reports, cores, and university research centers. He also discussed plans to grow the research portfolio by increased effort in collaborative research while supporting the infrastructure demand across the university culture. Dr. Weyhenmeyer indicated that a significant part of the VPR budget is used to support faculty startup/recruitment packages that are constructed through a collaborative between the respective college and the provost’s office. Dr. Romski made a
request to add a percentage breakdown on the VPR budget. In addition to this, a brief discussion was provided on the new presidential administration as it pertained to the federal funding agenda.

6. Chair Sevcik proposed a new subcommittee with a primary purpose to review/assess the current research infrastructure, e.g., aging cores, and focus on identifying priorities that would support ongoing and future research agendas on campus; she will recruit members for the committee.

The next meeting will be held on February 20, 2017 at 3:00 PM in 224 Centennial Hall Building.