Senate Research Committee Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2017, 3:00 PM
224 Centennial Hall

Attendees: Amber Amari, Elaine Bryan, Brenda Chapman, Florian Enescu, Jill Littrell, Carrie Manning, Vincent Rehder, Maryann Romski, Erin Ruel, Rose A. Sevcik (Chair), Brian Sinclair, Mary Stuckey, James Weyhenmeyer, and Yali Zhao


Minutes: Rose Baldwin

1. The January 23, 2017 minutes were approved.

2. Dr. Chapman reported on the past discussion regarding the final revisions of the HHS protection of human subjects policy also referred as “the Common Rule.” Several handouts were circulated at the meeting. At present, the White House has ceased all newly introduced or amended regulations for 60 days, approximately. Further, a new round to re-open said policy for additional comments is likely. Any new updates will be shared with the committee.

3. Dr. Weyhenmeyer delivered a summary of the following OVPR activities:
   a. As of February 16, the FY17 total grant and contract activities was over $100 million.
   b. A brief update was provided on information pertaining to the current national federal funding trends and budgetary allocations. In summary, a short list of federal agencies are projected to see a small increase to in their portfolios, e.g., DoD and NIH, while others may not.

4. Dr. Weyhenmeyer shared a draft policy entitled Allocation/Reallocation of Laboratory Research Space. A copy was furnished. Research laboratory space is considered an important university asset that needs to be assessed, allocated, and reallocated in a reasonable manner in order to support the ongoing strategic research objectives as outlined in the university strategic plan. Although, new faculty or early career scholars may negotiate laboratory space in the early stages of their research, the ongoing use of laboratory space requires a university policy. The VPR will conduct an annual review that will apply objective and ‘value-based’ criteria in the assessment of single and or multiple laboratory spaces based on specific productivity metrics. Some metrics mentioned included total direct research expenditures, total indirect cost recoveries, and sponsored research award history to determine assignments for laboratory space and support units. Any proposed recommendations will be shared with the appropriate administrators (respective college deans, department chairs, etc.).

Dr. Romski along with other research members expressed the need to extend the productivity targets from 2 fiscal years to 2-3 fiscal years, as it is essential to allow flexibility for new faculty or junior researchers who are in the beginning stages of their research career, when possible. Dr. Rehder provided insight about well-funded researchers who experience an unforeseeable event like losing a postdoctoral associate or other events that can impact award or expenditure activity for a given year and the need for leniency if/should specific conditions apply. Research members proposed other content changes that included no-cost extension eligibility, etc. The research committee was supportive of the draft policy with friendly amendments. A final draft policy will be shared with the research members via email prior to it being presented at the next Admin Council meeting.
5. Chair Sevcik made an announcement that Dr. Swahn has elected to chair the *ad hoc* committee on research infrastructure; therefore, any faculty member interested in serving on committee should contact her.

6. Chair Sevcik briefly discussed the interdisciplinary working group convened by the Provost. It is planned for Dr. Morris to attend an upcoming meeting to provide updates for which the SRC will have the opportunity to discuss.

The next meeting will be held on March 20, 2017 at 3:00 PM in 365 Edgewood Avenue Building.