Senate Research Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 20, 2017; 3:00 PM  
365 Edgewood Avenue  

Attendees: Andrew Butler, Brenda Chapman, Candace Kemp, Amy Lederberg, Jill Littrell, Carrie Manning, Robin Morris, Unil Perera, Vincent Rehder, Ed Rigdon, Sally Robertson, Maryann Romski, Rose A. Sevcik (Chair), Brian Sinclair, Kelly Stout, Mary Stuckey, Jelena Subotic, James Weyhenmeyer, Leslie Wolf, and Brett Wong  


Minutes: Rose Baldwin  

1. The February 20, 2017 minutes were approved.  

2. Dr. Morris delivered an update on the Next Generation Faculty program. The program is in the second year of funding a 5-year program and tasked with building disciplinary-specific scholarly depth. The competitive pool of proposals of strategic research and scholarly themes included requests for junior faculty and postdoctoral clusters in this round of funding. There were a total of $9 million in proposal requests. Proposals were funded across diverse themes from cybersecurity to urban youth to translational imaging facilities. Overall, the program continues to strengthen and distinguish Georgia State’s junior and senior faculty research and scholarship by increasing interdisciplinary and synergistic activity in strategic areas.  

3. Dr. Morris also provided details on the Provost’s Interdisciplinary Working Group that is conducting a comprehensive review to determine effective ways to improve and transform the interdisciplinary culture on campus. A description was provided on the review metrics that included faculty-staff lines, primary/joint appointments, credit distribution, “innovative” teaching models (interdepartmental), and promotion and tenure. Proposed recommendations will be shared with this committee for its input.  

Dr. Romski and other senate members offered support for a more enhanced P&T policy on interdisciplinary efforts and activities, as this will be instrumental in incentivizing existing and new interdisciplinary teams along with buy-in from colleges. Dr. Manning requested a members’ list of those currently serving on the interdisciplinary working group. Dr. Morris responded that he will provide the list and reiterated that the group will be responsible for recommending additions on interdisciplinary scholarship to the university P&T manual.  

4. Dr. Weyhenmeyer revisited the updated draft policy entitled Allocation/Reallocation of Laboratory Research Space. A copy was provided. The policy supports the ongoing research activities associated with laboratory space on campus. Senate members agreed to move the policy forward to the Administrative Council scheduled for the coming month.  

5. Dr. Weyhenmeyer delivered a brief summary on the FY17 total grant and contract award activities which are over $118 million for this fiscal year. The data are posted on Spectrum and award notices that have been received.  

6. Dr. Subotic inquired about obtaining more information on the IDC distribution model, specifically for her discipline in COAS. Dr. Weyhenmeyer replied that colleges and schools are responsible for the distribution of IDC funds, and it varies across the campus. The best source for information about distribution of IDC funds would be a college’s Dean’s Office.  

The next meeting will be held on April 24, 2017 at 3:00 PM in 522 Centennial Hall Building.
This will be the organizational meeting for the 2017-8 university senate.