Senate Research Committee Meeting Minutes  
August 20, 2018; 3:00 PM  
365 Edgewood Avenue Building  

Attendees: Charlie Benson, Margo Brinton, Laura Burtle, Dabney Dixon, Andrew Gewirtz, Dennis Gilbride, Shuguang Hong, Jan Ivery, Archana Iyer, Candace Kemp, Anne Murphy, Martin Norgaard, Ashli Owen-Smith, Don Reitzes, Shannon Renee-Self, Maggie Renken, Ed Rigdon, Sally Robertson, Maryann Romski, Erin Ruel, Rose A. Sevcik (Chair), Susan Snyder, Kelly Stout, Jelena Subotic, Kris Varjas, Gangli Wang, Brett Wong, and Yusen Xia


Minutes: Rose Baldwin

1. The April 23, 2018 minutes were approved.

2. Research committee approved Dr. Candace Kemp to replace Dr. Unil Perera as the GSURF board member for the senate year.

3. Dr. Stout provided the following updates and announcements (handout was provided):
   a. The Disclosure of Significant Financial Interest form is due in September annually; CITI’s Conflict of Interest Refresher course is due every four years; and IACUC has revamped the process and timeline for protocol review. Detailed information is posted on URSA’s website.
   b. FY19 Fringe Benefit’s rate remains the same as previous fiscal year. However, the F&A rate increased this fiscal year and continues to incrementally increase each year until FY22; the modified rate agreement is posted on OSPA’s website.
   c. The Call for Proposals for the Dissertation Grant program are now open with a submission deadline by October 1; the Conference Grant program now accepts proposals on a continuous basis; and Limited Submissions need to contact her office first before submitting a proposal.
   d. The Healthcare Innovation Program, a partnership between Emory, GA Tech, and GSU, are now accepting multidisciplinary proposals that examines innovative approaches to healthcare services and clinical effectiveness; more information can be found on URSA’s website.
   e. URSA’s research training and workshops available this fall semester includes a few new workshops led by senior principal investigators who will discuss writing for a competitive proposal to sponsor-specific federal agencies such as NIH and US Dept of Education (handout includes training schedule).
   f. Georgia State faculty are eligible to apply for a full fee waiver on publication costs associated with manuscripts accepted for publication in the open access Biomedical Central and Springer Journals. Anyone interested should contact her office.

4. Dr. Subotic delivered on a presentation to the senate research committee a general overview of the internal grants program’s funded applications and budget from FY14-FY19. The information particularly illustrated the trendline on funded applications for the Research Initiation (ie. Mentor Option) and Scholarly Support (Pretenure and Tenured) Grants that supports a broad base of research faculty on research grants, major publications, books, and major products (e.g., artistic works). She detailed the noticeably decreased budget allocations that funded fewer applications in recent years. Dr. Stout added the internal grants program generally receives 50-70 applications however 10% of those applications are funded annually.

Dr. Subotic provided a brief update from the senate research subcommittee on internal grants that several important changes to take effect immediately to the policy of the internal grant program. Some changes included that there will be no appeal process allowed and only two resubmissions will be permitted for the same research proposal.
Chair Sevcik solicited ideas to increase the annual budget disbursed for the university-level internal grant program and gave special attention that this program serves a broad network of researchers who are junior and senior faculty. Dr. Romski emphasized this program has a good ratio on internal grant awardees securing external dollars from multivariate agencies. Dr. Subotic added that these faculty have secured extramural award dollars as substantial as $9 million in a single year based on a recent assessment report. Members present agreed it is a valuable contribution for Georgia State. Dr. Norgaard offered a suggestion that can possibly increase more funded applications using a tier system, and Dr. Stout invited him to email her details of this proposed plan. She also offered to provide a metric report to the committee at an upcoming meeting on the outcomes of the internal grant awardees from the last three years.

5. Dr. Romski provided a brief status update on the faculty infrastructure working group. Recently, she met with Dr. Weyhenmeyer who confirmed a definite plan to have another full grant administration review from Huron (similarly to Huron-2005 report) that begins next month with a completion date by January 2019. It will comprise of a five-year plan for us to better position ourselves in relation to our benchmark universities. Dr. Gilbride emphasized the importance to have faculty feedback coinciding with this Huron report (and on a continuous basis). Dr. Romski responded the subcommittee is proposing that faculty who submit grant proposals will automatically receive a survey based on their perception on support and services received; to be collected monthly to provide regular feedback to OSPA.

6. Chair Sevcik brought up about the possibility of creating a graduate school at Georgia State. She had met with Dr. Jared Poley, at his invitation. He has proposed a joint committee comprised of representatives from three senate committees: planning and development, budget, and research. He conveyed that the Provost is supportive of this initiative. Faculty who had been members of the previous committee that explored this topic described its work and outcomes. Some members noted that there had been strong opposition by some administrators in the past. Members offered their views, noting that this action may cause more budgetary constraints. It was suggested that faculty affairs be consulted for membership on the committee as well. Chair Sevcik will keep the committee members abreast about any new developments.

7. Dr. Norgaard requested to have a status update on the software called Academic Analytics. Chair Sevcik responded that the college deans manage this software and are the ones to contact directly.

8. Chair Sevcik requested additional information on the Single IRB for multi-site studies option on NIH grants. Dr. Stout said that a NIH webcast on this specific topic is planned for middle September.

The next meeting will be held on September 17, 2018 at 3:00 PM in Room 365 of the 58 Edgewood Avenue Building.