Senate Research Committee Meeting Minutes  
September 17, 2018; 3:00 PM  
365 Edgewood Avenue Building

Attendees: Charlie Benson, Margo Brinton, Laura Burtle, Geert de Vries, Elena Del Rio Parra, Shuguang Hong, Jan Ivery, Archana Iyer, Candace Kemp, Anne Murphy, Martin Norgaard, Ashli Owen-Smith, Don Reitzes, Shannon Renee-Self, Ed Rigdon, Maryann Romski, Erin Ruel, Vjolca Sadiraj, Rose A. Sevcik (Chair), Susan Snyder, Kelly Stout, Jelena Subotic, Gangli Wang, Jack Williams, and Aleksandr Zelikovskiy

Absentees: Andrew Butler, Lisa Marie Casanova, Nikolaus Dietz, Dabney Dixon, Sabrina Freeney, Andrew Gewirtz, Dennis Gilbride, Glenn Harrison, Trae Johnson, Nadine Kabengi, Tony Lemieux, Stacey Mitchell, Remus Osan, Maggie Renken, Sally Robertson, Bill Robinson, Kris Varjas, James Weyhenmeyer, Brett Wong, and Yusen Xia

Minutes: Rose Baldwin

1. The August 20, 2018 minutes were approved.

2. Dr. Stout provided a quick reminder from the senate research subcommittee on internal grants that several changes have been made to the policy of the internal grant program. Included are: no appeal process is granted and a research proposal is permitted the maximum of two resubmissions.

3. Dr. Norgaard revisited his proposed idea to implement a tier-system that could ultimately get more internal grant applications funded and inquired about the possibility to evaluate research proposals’ budgets to ascertain whether or not the amounts can be adjusted. Dr. Stout responded that the challenge for those involved in the review process is to determine appropriate budget costs in the applicant’s research proposal when not an expert in that disciplinary work. Dr. de Vries further commented that invariably there will be one group who can conduct their work at a lower tier while the others cannot. Chair Sevcik asked whether we should consider a minimum and maximum budgets approach; however, a less funded project may not expand to a worthy project as funds are meant to expedite the faculty’s research work. Dr. Romski, along with other senate members, showed concern that smaller grant awards may affect the quality of a project’s outcomes thus weaken the actual development of securing new external funds. Chair Sevcik welcomes the idea to direct this to Dr. Weyhenmeyer and obtain his thoughts on this specific topic.

4. Chair Sevcik reminded the committee that the Disclosure of Significant Financial Interest form is due this month, and all those required to comply should have gotten an email already.

5. Dr. Romski provided an update from the infrastructure working group and they are scheduled to meet with Dr. Weyhenmeyer on October 1 to discuss the outcome on the Huron agreement and further understand how we can enhance the current infrastructure. Any new developments will be shared with this research committee.

6. Dr. Sevcik provided several updates related to the draft proposal to create a graduate school at Georgia State University. The newly formed joint committee did successfully acquire faculty affairs to serve as a member. However, there is a current hold with this committee according to its Chair, Jared Poley. Dr. Armistead has been invited to attend one of our meetings to provide a status report on graduate education as well give us an update on the current initiatives coming from her office.

7. Dr. Murphy raised an issue with hiring new research staff for sponsored awards largely because there is only one HR representative who processes the paperwork. She supports hiring another HR representative to avoid long delays. Chair Sevcik made an offer to take this matter to Dr. Rackcliffe who oversees the Office of Human Resources at Georgia State University.
The next meeting will be held on October 15, 2018 at 3:00 PM in Room 365 of the 58 Edgewood Avenue Building.