Senate Research Committee Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2018; 3:00 PM
365 Edgewood Avenue Building

Attendees: Lisa Armistead, Margo Brinton, Laura Burtle, Dennis Gilbride, Shuguang Hong, Jan Ivery, Archana Iyer, Denise Jenkins, Trae Johnson, Nadine Kabengi, Candace Kemp, Stacey Mitchell, 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, Jack Williams, and Brett Wong


Minutes: Rose Baldwin

1. The September 17, 2018 minutes were approved.

2. Dr. Romski provided a new update from the infrastructure working group. They have met with Dr. Weyhenmeyer regarding the Huron agreement to review GSU’s research grant administration. Apparently, Huron questions the BOR Comprehensive Administrative Review (CAR) conflicting with this agreement thus a temporary hold is in place right now. However, it is anticipated to initialize the process by the next SRC committee meeting. The working group will continue to focus on issues raised by this committee and updates will be provided, if applicable.

Dr. Romski also revisited the proposed faculty survey in the Research Portal for pre and post award activity. Currently, they are determining the levels and sub-levels of information in the survey, and also, they are reviewing central IT’s processes in handling technical issues via their ticket system and intend to gain their feedback on that system. A general discussion followed by the research members.

Dr. Romski brought up the concern with hiring new research staff for sponsored awards and made a request to invite a HR representative to one of our committee meetings. Chair Sevcik agreed with the proposal.

3. Dr. Armistead, Associate Provost of Office of Graduate Programs, stated that the Office of Graduate Admissions was fully implemented recently, and a centralized system is now in place for prospective applicants.

4. Dr. Armistead presented the academic marketing efforts for graduate programs. GSU has been using the EAB Lead Generation to market the graduate programs for the past five years, and this effort is separated into three categories: business, metrics, and health. A report was circulated to the members. A brief discussion was provided on the report analysis of market reach. Dr. Armistead announced that a Director of Marketing for Admissions was hired recently.

Several members shared similar interest of other possible efforts to increase the student population. Dr. Armistead mentioned Robinson College of Business is investing in the Converge digital marketer program and the Andrew Young School of Public Policy is using Carnegie digital marketing for higher education. She noted enrollment numbers have improved from recent years including degrees conferred (per the graduate report). Dr. Gilbride inquired about the goal set for student growth. Dr. Armistead responded that the general goal is 70% undergraduate and 30% graduate students, and the best plan to right-size the PhD programs is to develop a good PhD profile (i.e., graduation completion) to promote academic departments throughout the university.

5. Dr. Armistead delivered a report on the Provost Dissertation Fellowship (PDF) program, and this prestigious program attracts a diverse base of doctoral students to fully support the completion of their dissertations in the last year. To date, a total of 52 fellows have been enrolled and 43 fellows
have completed their fellowship successfully. Currently, there are nine fellows enrolled, and the program is reviewing 28 applications received for the upcoming spring semester. Generally, those awarded this fellowship graduate 2.5 years faster than other PhD students without a fellowship in the same disciplinary program. Additionally, fellows were more successful to secure external awards.

She also provided data points on the 2CI Fellowship program from fall 2017 that showed it contributed to student growth in certain doctoral programs. A handout was provided. Approximately, the program maintains 100 fellows each year. A total of 224 doctoral students have been enrolled to date. Generally, these fellows showed more success at securing external awards in comparison to other PhD students not enrolled in the fellowship program.

Dr. Vargas inquired on the eligibility requirement for a student to be on-campus to qualify for the PDF program. Dr. Armistead responded that a graduate student does not need to be on-campus as long as they complete the monthly goals of the program. There was general discussion among the members that ranged from eligibility criteria for the PDF and 2CI fellowships to the typical monthly stipend awarded to doctoral students.

6. Dr. Armistead reported on the graduate student fellowships for national awards. A handout was provided. Her office makes a concerted effort to grow the fellowships and aid students with tuition waivers. She highlighted on Southern Regional Education Board where fellowships are worth $25K (with a high fundable percentage). Overall, they have made good progress on this effort.

7. Dr. Armistead announced that Ms. Katrina Helz, Graduate Fellowship Advisor, is available to provide proposal guidance to graduate students and postdoctoral associates on a broad range of prestigious external grant awards. Dr. Murphy inquired about the need for faculty’s involvement in this specific effort. Dr. Armistead replied they welcome faculty’s involvement at any time.

8. Dr. Armistead provided an announcement/update as follows:
   – Graduate workshops have been planned for fall 2018; a handout was provided.
   – The OneUSG Connect payroll system is not paying graduate students on a timely basis; there are current efforts to resolve this serious technical issue expediently.

9. Dr. Sevcik asked about the possibility to create a GSU Graduate School. Dr. Armistead said both the President and Provost show full support for a graduate school, and noted, the disadvantage to not pursuing this will risk our ability to move this university forward. Dr. Brinton supported the idea to have a consistent policy and appeals process to efficiently address certain administrative matters e.g., tuition waivers. Dr. Armistead answered that they are making every effort to maintain a consistent policy—and also may form a GSU Graduate Council.

The next meeting will be held on November 12, 2018 at 3:00 PM in Room 365 of the 58 Edgewood Avenue Building.