Senate Research Committee Meeting Minutes  
August 26, 2019; 3:00 PM  
365 Edgewood Avenue Building

Attendees: Alison Alesi, Margo Brinton, Zhipeng Cai, Brenda Chapman, Daniel Crimmins, Michael Eriksen, Andrew Gewirtz, Qian Gu, Glenn Harrison, Xiaochun He, Jan Ivery, Nadine Kabengi, Candace Kemp, Tony Lemieux, Elizabeth Lim, Songqi Liu, Ann Mallard, Anne Murphy, Martin Norgaard, Maggie Renken, Sally Robertson, Maryann Romski, Vjollca Sadiraj, Rose A. Sevcik (Chair), Kelly Stout, Jelena Subotic, Kris Varjas, Desiree Wanders, and Jack Williams

Absentees: Charlie Benson, Laura Burtle, Dabney Dixon, Sabrina Freeney, Mariana Montiel, Ed Rigdon, Bill Robinson, Julie Washington, and Aleksandar Zelikovskiy

Minutes: Rose Baldwin

1. The April 29, 2019 minutes were approved.

2. Dr. Chapman provided a friendly reminder that the annual Disclosure on the Significant Financial Interest form is due by September 30 and all university researchers are required to complete it.

3. Dr. Chapman welcomed Dr. Alison Alesi who is the new Director of ORI Human Research Protection Program.

4. Dr. Eriksen presented on a pressing topic related to the high-profile issue surrounding foreign influences on U.S. researchers who improperly disclosed on financial conflict of interest. A handout was given to the committee members. He emphasized that each institute will need to demonstrate research integrity as this particular compliance issue is an active, ongoing dialogue with U.S. Congressional hearings and NIH. Faculty should contact their college deans or department chairs to obtain further guidance on this issue. GSU values international scholarship and collaboration. It is important, however, for each research project to begin by disclosing possible financial conflict of interests (e.g., in intellectual property, products, other funds, etc) with the GSU Management Plan as this should deter any possible future issues. A couple of examples were provided to understand the legal responsibility and implications of intellectual activities such as export controls and economic espionage with foreign countries. A broadcast email message is forthcoming on this important matter.

Several members shared similar views that the guideline needs more clarity because it is not descriptive enough in language (e.g., data usage, laptops, travel). Dr. Eriksen replied that if you are uncertain about the way to address something, consult with the University IT and Legal Affairs. Dr. Chapman provided additional comment to contact the Legal Affairs to discuss the concern and to also cover any confidentiality issues or to complete pertinent forms in order to maintain research compliance.

A more detailed communication is forthcoming. Dr. Eriksen will share the committee’s concerns and questions to assure that they are addressed in forthcoming messages on this topic.

5. Dr. Eriksen provided the following updates/announcement from OVPR:
   – The Huron Consulting Group recently completed the evaluation on GSU’s grant administration (approved by SRC), and the release of the report is forthcoming.
   – The faculty’s Next Generation Program, a successor of 2CI, is in its fifth year, and the interim provost is actively discussing the possible funding for the fifth year.
   – The VPR Office is now reviewing the University Research Centers using the guidelines approved in 2012. The centers were supposed to be assessed annually and also every five years; however, the reports were not completed.
6. Chair Sevcik opened discussion on the need to form an *ad hoc* group to review the guidelines on the University Research Centers as it is important to ascertain the relevancy of this policy. Dr. Eriksen requested for the URL associated with the centers be recorded in the minutes ([https://research.gsu.edu/centers/](https://research.gsu.edu/centers/)) and emphasized the importance for the centers to achieve their research objectives. Chair Sevcik noted that the former provost’s modifications of the academic program review had altered the overall procedure of center review. Center review was to be folded within the APR mechanism and not done by the senate research committee. She proposed forming a working group to review the current university research center document on the research centers. The research committee agreed and Dr. Lemieux and Dr. He offered to serve on it. Dr. Stout will assist the committee as well.

7. Chair Sevcik requested feedback from the research members regarding the handout on the Chemistry Laboratory Safety guideline included in today's packet. There was consensus among the members that the document is more relevant to undergraduate research "curriculum" and needs be re-assigned to another committee where it falls under their purview. A motion was made and approved by the committee to forward the safety guideline to the Legal Office.

8. The research committee approved Dr. Candace Kemp, Dr. Jack Williams, and Dr. Tony Lemieux to serve as the GSURF board members for the new academic year.

9. Chair Sevcik discussed Year 5 of the Next Generation Program (Interim Provost Hensel had asked that the senate research committee offer input on it). A good number of senate members shared similar views that the funds could be invested into internal grants or that additional funds could be put into the VPR’s office. Dr. Romski offered the idea that if Next Generation Year 5 were to be used for already committed faculty positions, the funds should support junior faculty hires. Dr. Varjas requested data points on the program as this is essential to better evaluate and to grow the grant activity in the research portfolio. Chair Sevcik discussed communicating with the interim provost the group’s discussion today.

10. Dr. Eriksen provided a reminder that the next university strategic plan will be forthcoming.

The next meeting will be held on September 16, 2019 at 3:00 PM in Room 365 of the 58 Edgewood Avenue Building.