Senate Research Committee Meeting Minutes  
August 17, 2020; 3:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting; Chair Sevcik

Attendees: Margo Brinton, Zhipeng Cai, Kaisheka Capers, Brenda Chapman, Daniel Crimmins, Richard Dix, Michael Fix, Sabrina Freney, Andrew Gewirtz, Krista Graham, Glenn Harrison, Xiaochun He, John Horgan, Jan Ivery, Nadine Kabengi, Candace Kemp, Chunying Li, Elizabeth Lim, Songqi Liu, Yuan Liu, Blake McGee, Mariana Montiel, Martin Norgaard, Ken Packman, Gregory Poon, Jay Rajiva, Ken Rice, Sean Richey, Ed Rigdon, Sally Robertson, Maryann Romski, Vjolca Sadiraj, Rose A. Sevcik (Chair), Nicola Sharratt, Andrey Shilnikov, Kelly Stout, Jelena Subotic, Desiree Wanders, Jack Williams, and Aleksandr Zelikovskiy

Absentees: Lindsey Cohen, Michael Eriksen, Sevgin Eroglu, Anne Murphy, Maggie Renken, William Robinson, Volkan Topalli, and Julie Washington

Minutes: Rose Baldwin

1. The April 20, 2020 minutes were approved.

2. Senate research committee elected Dr. Rose Sevcik as the chair for the senate year (2021).

3. Dr. Romski reported the University Research Center working group will present the final recommendations on the University Research Centers’ guidelines (2012) at the next full committee meeting.

4. Dr. Chapman announced the disclosure of the significant financial conflict of interest (FCOI) is due before/by September 30. It is required for all university researchers to complete annually (http://sfi.gsu.edu). A broadcast message will be provided to the GSU research community.

5. Dr. Stout provided the URSA’s announcement/updates as follows:
   – FY20 closed at $150 million in total grants and award activities. This is the sixth straight year that GSU exceeded more than $100 million in total research awards.
   – Reminder: Ms. Jennifer Marquez, associate director of PR & Communications for the VPR Office, welcomes information about faculty’s research accomplishments.
   – VPR office plans to renovate some unused research space to increase the BSL3 space (possibly BSL4 space) in an effort to meet the current need and ultimately to increase research productivity and funding in the infectious disease disciplines. This effort will not require reallocation of research space from currently active research.
   – Dr. Eriksen created a research taskforce this past May to address the existing FAQs related to the conduct of research during the coronavirus (COVID19) pandemic; these FAQs are now on the Georgia State Ahead website. Additional questions not addressed here may be sent to the kpowellstout@gsu.edu.

6. Chair Sevcik drew attention to the limitations for human subjects/research participants requiring on-campus visits and that human research should be conducted virtually whenever possible. Any faculty with concerns can bring it to her attention, as she will take it to the task force.

7. Chair Sevcik gave an update that the search will continue for the permanent VPR position, because the search committee extended an offer to one of the finalists who declined the offer.

The next meeting is scheduled on September 21, 2020 at 3:00 PM virtually, WebEx application.