Senate Research Committee Meeting Minutes  
September 20, 2021; 3:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting  

Attendees: Janelle Bassett, Margo Brinton, Kristin Byron, Matt (Xiaojun) Cao, Brenda Chapman, Tim Denning, Sabrina Freeney, Marilyn Gentiles, Andrew Gewirtz, Krista Graham, Glenn Harrison, Xiaochun He, John Horgan, Jidong Huang, Yi Jiang, Nadine Kabengi, Candace Kemp, Chunying Li, Scott Lightsey, Elizabeth Lim, Songqi Liu, Yuan Liu, Joseph Magliano, Anne Murphy, Martin Norgaard, Gregory Poon, Hongyu Qiu, Ken Rice, Maryann Romski, Rose A. Sevcik (Chair), Kelly Stout, Jelena Subotic, Volkan Topalli, Desiree Wanders, Pey-shan Wen, and Jack Williams,  


Agenda:  
1. The **April 2021 minutes were approved** with no changes or amendments.  
2. Kelly Stout:  
   a. **Assessment of internal grants program** shows that the program continues we results in very good returns for the investment. Research initiative Grants show a return on investment of between 140% and 2500% across the award years and Scholarly Support Grants have nearly all resulted in the successful completion of the proposed scholarly outcomes for professional development and recognition. The breakdown of proposals and awards by college, as requested, is being provided along with these meeting minutes.  
   b. **Dissertation grant proposal due October 1st**  
   c. **Calls for proposal for internal faculty internal grants** will be released in early October with a mid-January deadline.  
3. Brenda Chapmen: **Reminder that annual disclosures** related to Significant Financial Interests (SFIs) must be completed by September 30th  
4. Nadine Kabengi: **Covered issues related to postdoctoral employees of the university**  
   a. Additional feedback on Postdoctoral policy and procedural document  
      i. Expect to use input from ongoing listening tours to make useful revisions to this document  
      ii. Should postdocs have a time-limited term at Georgia State possibly to protect them from inappropriately being held at this level for too long and in the best interest of the postdocs?  
      iii. Add language to indicate that additional resources can be provided to assist with insurance, etc. “if the funds are available” to clarify any potential expectation for these funds.  
      iv. Need to provide clarification about what postdocs get when they separate from the university (i.e. which can be different from other employees if paid from sponsored funds)  
   b. Looking into HR issues related to hiring and benefits for postdocs  
      i. How to obtain insurance for Postdoc Fellows and possible ways to supplement  
      ii. Vacation buy-out when postdoc leaves institution  
      iii. Providing template of postdoc offer letter as a resource  
      iv. Discussing with HR to allow for better raises for postdocs  
   c. Tim Denning indicated that the VPRED office is reaching out to other USG institutions to determine how they are managing some of these postdoc issues  
   d. Any further comments on the current Postdoctoral Appointee Policy & Procedure document should be emailed to Nadine Kabengi  
5. Tim Denning: Update from the VPRED
a. **Issues of purchases being flagged for legal reviews** will be examined further to determine how and why these are being flagged, why the purchaser is not being alerted when a review is required, and how legal is handling those that are flagged for review. The goal is to eliminate unnecessary legal reviews of purchases, to alert purchasers when legal reviews are needed, and possibly to allow purchasers to get explanation for the legal review and be allowed to appeal if there is strong justification as to why the purchase should not require legal review.

b. **F&A Waiver guideline revisions** are currently under discussion with a goal of having clearer expectations about when and how to request F&A waivers or reductions to minimize loss of F&A which is needed to cover real costs to maintain and build the research related infrastructure. More updates will be forthcoming.

6. **Other business**
   a. SRC previously requested someone who is knowledgeable about sponsor funded hiring be hired in HR to manage those hires; Concerns were expressed that this is apparently not the current situation; Look into reinstating someone knowledgeable in this role in HR.
   b. It was suggested that the OVPRED might consider having staff to liaison with business offices to address institutional procedures that present barriers to the conduct of research.

Next meeting: October 19, 2021