

Senate Research Committee Meeting Minutes  
November 15, 2021; 3:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting

**Attendees:** Janelle Bassett, Margo Brinton, Kris Byron, Richard Dix, Matt Cao, Marilyn Gentles, Andrew Gewirtz, Krista Graham, Glenn Harrison, Xiaochun He, John Horgan, Jidong Huang, Yi Jiang, Nadine Kabengi, Candace Kemp, Jun Kong, Chunying Li, Bethany McCullough, Anne Murphy, Martin Norgaard, Greg Poon, Cynthia Puranik, Hongyu Qiu, Jay Rajiva, Ken Rice, MaryAnn Ronski, Rose Sevcik, Kelly Stout, Jelena Subotic, Desiree Wanders, Pey-shan Wen, Aleksandr Zelikovsky

**Absent:** Sabrina Freney, Scott Lightsey, Elizabeth Lim, Yuan Liu, Joseph Magliano, Stacey Mitchell, William Robinson, Vjollca Sadiraj, Volcan Topalli, Jack Williams

1. October's meeting minutes were approved.
2. Jerry Rackcliffe presented an overview of how the university budget works and covered general projections for FY2023
  - a. Credit hours drives a large portion of the budget that GSU receives annually from the state (NOTE: graduate credit hours count twice what UG credit hours count for this formula); In FY21 and FY22, credit hours were way down, especially at the Perimeter campuses; Therefore, we expect a budget cut in FY23.
  - b. The immediate objective is to try to increase credit hours to reverse this loss in state funding; University academic units need to continually reinvent their course offerings to keep up with the demand and maintain credit hours over time.
  - c. A large portion of IDC returns continue to go towards building and renovating research space for future growth, a plan put in place some years ago.
  - d. It was suggested that IDC distributions may need to be allocated differently to address long-standing research infrastructure needs (e.g. research support staff salary equity, hiring tenure-track faculty and start-up needs, postdoc and graduate student stipends, etc.) and to allow for research growth even when credit hours fluctuate.
  - e. It was suggested that research strategic planning needs to be a higher priority than it has been in recent history.
3. Provost Hensel has worked with the University Senate's Budget committee that has agreed to create a standing committee within the Budget committee will be formed that will provide faculty a permanent voice on faculty compensation issues.
  - a. There is currently no detail about when the committee will be formed or who will be on the committee.
  - b. Concern was expressed that modeling for this committee will be delegated to an external organization, especially with regard to how research is evaluated by the statistical models; This Senate Research Committee needs to push this new standing committee to ensure that will be part of the conversation.
4. Because both the VPRED Denning and the Director of Regulatory Affairs and IRB, Alison Alesi, had to be absent today, and there may need to be legal input, updates regarding the IRB issue related to mask mandating for human research will be addressed at the December meeting.
5. There continue to be concerns about the restrictions on purchasing research-related items from vendors that charge considerably less for those items than state-contracted vendors; Purchasing is

working with the OVPRED to provide some guidance on providing justifications for instances when purchasing from non-state contracted vendors is warranted; Moreover, we can look into whether we might establish a state contract with vendors not currently under contract in order to get access to their lower prices on commonly ordered items (e.g. gloves).

The next meeting is scheduled on December 13th at 3:00 PM virtually, WebEx application.