Senate Research Committee Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 2021, 3:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting

**Attendees:** Alison Alesi (guest), Janelle Bassett, Margo Brinton, Brenda Chapman (guest), Tim Denning, Sabrina Freeley, Krista Graham, Glenn Harrison, Yi Jiang, Nadine Kabengi, Candace Kemp, Jun Kong, Scott Lightsey, Stacey Mitchell, Anne Murphy, Martin Norgaard, Greg Poon, Cynthia Puranik, Ken Rice, MaryAnn Romski, Rose Sevcik, Vjolca Sadiraj, Kelly Stout, Desiree Wanders, Pey-shan Wen

**Absent:** Kris Byron, Richard Dix, Matt Cao, Marilyn Gentles, Andrew Gewirtz, Xiaochun He, John Horgan, Jidong Huang, Chunying Li, Elizabeth Lim, Yuan Liu, Joseph Magliano, Bethany McCullough, Hongyu Qiu, Jay Rajiva, William Robinson, Jelena Subotic, Volcan Topalli, Jack Williams, Aleksandr Zelikovsky

1. November meeting minutes approved unanimously

2. Update on Internal Dissertation Grants: 39 applications received and 13 were funded (more details forthcoming)

3. Big Research Ideas campaign: President Blake wants to provide up to $500K each to grow/expand up to 5 innovative, interdisciplinary research areas at Georgia State The basic process for rolling out this initiative over the spring will be:
   a. Obtain input from faculty on research areas for this initiative (should not be new areas, but building areas with existing strength or combining multiple areas with existing strengths to move into a new transdisciplinary direction)
   b. Discuss areas put forth with college deans and other administrative leaders to gain buy-in.
   c. Determine final areas and call for proposal submissions
   d. Proposal evaluation and awards by late spring or summer 2022
   e. Other notes:
      i. Proposals will not be modeled after any specific sponsor and will be limited length
      ii. Proposals will need to specify goals related to impact for GSU and positioning GSU’s visibility on a national/international stage in the area of research.
      iii. Faculty lines may be involved, but not completely clear at this time.
   f. More details about the intitiative should be coming in January

4. Human subjects research and pandemic safety: Alison Alesi, Director of Regulatory Affairs guest
   a. Public health measures for the pandemic do not need to be implemented into IRB protocols because GSU has a communicated slate of public health precautions for human subjects in GSU research.
   b. Since precautions on campus have been relaxed, the GSU stated health precautions have also been relaxed.
   c. Currently, GSU is not allowing researchers put mask mandates in their research protocols because this goes directly against the USG’s/Governor’s directive earlier in the year
   d. If the participation is completely voluntary, can the mandate be implemented and who gets the final say, Legal or IRB?
e. Alison Alesi will revisit this with Legal Affairs to determine if they are willing to allow IRB to approve such requests without concern about how they come up against the USG and state government directives on this issue.

5. Salary compensation at GSU
   a. Chair of budget committee would like to include members from other Senate subcommittees on the new standing committee that monitors and addresses salary compensation issues
   b. Nadine Kabengi will be participating; Anne Murphy also volunteered to participate on this committee. Others who are interested needed to let Rose know by December 14th.

6. Old/New Business: President Blake will join the meeting in January.

   The next meeting is scheduled on January 24th at 3:00 PM virtually, WebEx application.