Senate Research Committee Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2017; 3:00 PM
522 Centennial Hall

Attendees: Lisa Armistead, Elaine Bryan, Andrew Butler, Laura Carscaddon, Julia Hilliard, Jan Ivery, Ken Johnson, Nadine Kabengi, Candace Kemp, Tony Lemieux, Carrie Manning, Abhay Mishra, Anne Murphy, Martin Norgaard, Remus Osan, Unil Perera, Ed Rigdon, Sally Robinson, Maryann Romski, Erin Ruel, Rose A. Sevcik (Chair), Kelly Stout, Jelena Subotic, James Weyhenmeyer, and Yali Zhao

Absentees: Lisa Marie Casanova, Elena Del Rio Parra, Dabney Dixon, Andrew Gewirtz, Vincent Rehder, Sally Robertson, Bill Robinson, Duane Truex, Kris Varjas, Elizabeth West, Jack Williams, Brett Wong, and Aleksandr Zelikovskiy

Minutes: Rose Baldwin

1. The March 20, 2017 minutes were approved.

2. Research committee elected Dr. Rose Sevcik as the Chair for the new senate year.

3. Dr. Armistead, Associate Provost for the Office of Graduate Programs, delivered information about graduate assistantships and stipends available to enrolled students at Georgia State. As of October 2016, the total monthly stipends reported across the university were $3.3 million with an average of $1,170 up to a maximum stipend of $4,375 per student. Specifically, the presentation focused on current funding model types (i.e., tuition waivers), assistantships types, and teaching loads. There are currently certain stipulations that must be met in order to be eligible for a Georgia State assistantship such as minimum credit-hour course enrollment and completion of specific university trainings. The ongoing administrative efforts towards revising the graduate policy, especially towards establishing a competitive stipend package, should increase the diversity of the graduate student population and enhance graduate academic achievement across the university. The PPT is available upon request.

4. Dr. Armistead shared some of the services available to graduate students and postdoctoral associates from her office. For example, Ms. Katrina Helz, a Fulbright Program Advisor, is available to provide step-by-step guidance with intramural and extramural grant opportunities. With assistance from her office, Georgia State has experienced a record number of students who secured prestigious fellowships from agencies such as NSF and NIH most recently in comparison to previous years. As well, her office is charged with working with students to monitor teaching loads appropriately in order for them to finish their dissertations successfully.

5. Dr. Armistead provided an update (and a handout was circulated) on the graduate assistant policy currently under development to request input from the committee on the administrative procedures and on monetary limitations and disbursements. Additionally, certain federal regulatory requirements pertaining to campus safety were updated in the policy. Said policy is to ensure all pertinent areas are addressed at the university and college levels and representative of the culture of students enrolled at Georgia State. Further, the proposed revisions have been reviewed and supported by the Senate Budget Committee. Dr. Armistead also sought support from the research committee members to eliminate the maximum stipend cap at $12K per semester. The Research Committee approved the motion to eliminate the threshold on graduate assistantships.

6. Dr. Weyhenmeyer briefly reported on FY17 total grant and contract award activities is at $125 million as of today. This is an increase of 30% from the previous fiscal year.
7. Dr. Weyhenmeyer announced that the Allocation/Reallocation of Laboratory Research Space policy was approved by Administrative Council at its recent meeting.

8. Dr. Romski requested to receive the percentage breakdown on the VPR budget. Dr. Weyhenmeyer replied he will email the information to Dr. Sevcik to share with the committee.

The next meeting will be held on August 28, 2017 at 3:00 PM in 522 Centennial Hall Building.