Senate Research Committee Meeting Minutes  
August 28, 2017; 3:00 PM  
522 Centennial Hall

Attendees: Andrew Butler, Brenda Chapman, Geert de Vries, Julia Hilliard, Ken Johnson, Nadine Kabengi, Candace Kemp, Tony Lemieux, Anne Murphy, Martin Norgaard, Unil Perera, Vincent Rehder, Maryann Romski, Rose A. Sevcik (Chair), Gwenn Spratt, Kelly Stout, Jelena Subotic, Elizabeth West, James Weyhenmeyer, Jack Williams, Brett Wong, Aleksandr Zelikovskiy, and Yali Zhao

Absentees: Elaine Bryan, Laura Carascaddon, Lisa Marie Casanova, Elena Del Rio Parra, Dabney Dixon, Andrew Gewirtz, Jan Ivery, Abhay Mishra, Remus Osan, Ed Rigdon, Sally Robertson, Bill Robinson, Erin Ruel, Duane Truex, and Kris Varjas

Minutes: Rose Baldwin

1. The April 24, 2017 minutes were approved.

2. The research committee nominated Dr. Unil Perera, Dr. Andrew Butler, and Dr. Jack Williams to serve as GSURF board members for the new senate year.

3. Dr. Chapman provided reminders on the following ORI’s updates:
   a. The Disclosure of Significant Financial Interest form is due in September annually and all university researchers are required to complete it.
   b. The CITI’s refresher course is due every three years and email notifications have been sent to researchers who are required to comply. Additionally, new CITI’s training modules have been added in the practice area of clinical trials.

4. Dr. Chapman reported on the newly modified regulations made in the DHHS Federal Policy for Protection of Human Subjects, also known as the Common Rule. The Common Rule was implemented as a step to better protect human subjects involved in research while alleviating administrative burdens and ambiguity for researchers. The policy will be publicly published in January 2018 although the effective date is not yet known. Therefore, the university’s policies and procedures will be amended to reflect the new changes including safety monitoring plans for those research projects reclassified to clinical trials. A broadcast message will be disseminated to the research community about the revised Common Rule. Dr. Weyhenmeyer further explained that NIH's expanded definition on clinical trials will include human subjects research that have historically been considered basic research in nature. Therefore, some new research projects may be classified as clinical trials and will need more administrative guidance and training to be compliant with the new requirements; existing research projects remain under the grandfather clause.

5. Dr. Chapman announced that the NIH introduced a new policy called Single IRB of Record that applies to NIH sponsored multi-site studies where a single IRB record will be used in ethical review of non-exempt human subjects’ research protocols. The goal of this policy is to streamline the IRB review process in the context of multi-site research so that research can proceed as expeditiously as possible while lessening systemic inefficiencies and without diminishing human subjects’ protections.

Dr. Norgaard inquired about the required CITI’s training courses specific to graduate students. Dr. Chapman responded that the applicable trainings are according to the type of work conducted in the research project.

6. Dr. Stout made the following URSA’s announcements:
   a. A handout listing the research training and workshops available this fall was circulated to the
The offerings include a few new workshops that focus on writing a winning R01 (with panel reviews for participants), preparing internal grant proposals, and mock proposal review exercises that are designed to help investigators write more competitive grant proposals.

b. The Calls for Proposals for the Conference Grant and Dissertation Grant mechanisms are now open with proposal deadlines in early October.

c. Ms. Jennifer Marquez the new Associate Director of Public Relations & Communications in the research office will strengthen the relationship between the research office and university’s PR office as well as increase the visibility of research and related activities and accomplishments at Georgia State to external audiences. All faculty are welcomed to send her emails about possible research stories and accolades.

7. Dr. Spratt presented on the current university policy called Intellectual Property Policy and said document applies to faculty, staff, and students who create intellectual property at GSU. This document is undergoing review by the Legal Department largely due to the SACS reaccreditation. A major change made to the policy is the removal of the Intellectual Property committee section since this committee is no longer an existing body at the university. Dr. Romski and other members expressed concern on the faculty appeals process and the importance to institute an ad-hoc committee to address such issues. Dr. Spratt replied that she will replace the Intellectual Property committee with an ad-hoc committee that will also act in an advisory capacity to the Vice President for Research. The research committee approved the revised policy with friendly amendments.

8. Dr. Weyhenmeyer reported FY17 closed at $147 million in total grant and contract award activities. This is an increase of $27 million from the previous fiscal year. A handout was provided. To summarize the handout: Georgia State’s top sponsors included NIH, Dept. of Education, and NSF. Approximately, 330 faculty received an award in FY17 from more than 300 funding sources. Georgia State had a 20% increase in sponsored awards year over year in the last four fiscal years. He added that existing faculty contributed to the significant increase in both single and collaborative grants and also commended all research faculty on their hard work during the past year.

9. Dr. Weyhenmeyer provided a reminder that Georgia State is designated under the Dept. of Education’s Title III and Title V programs and faculty may apply for grant opportunities under these programs.

10. Dr. de Vries discussed ways to identify and increase interdisciplinary research teams across the diverse research culture thematically at GSU. He asked the group to consider ideas to further expand this area and to share them with him. Dr. West indicated that the English department faculty are making concerted efforts to increase revenues in interdisciplinary research however there has been a lack of support to pursue this. Dr. de Vries extended an invitation for her to contact him to further explore possible opportunities. Chair Sevcik responded that this topic will be discussed in a future meeting since she plans to invite Dr. Mary Beth Walker, Associate Provost for Strategic Initiatives & Innovation, to speak about strategic efforts in Georgia State’s trajectory.

11. Dr. Lemieux shared his personal experience in developing interdisciplinary research teams in the Global Studies of Institute and can provide adept guidance in the constructs of it. Chair Sevcik commented that this discussion item will be included in the next agenda’s meeting.

The next meeting will be held on September 18, 2017 at 3:00 PM in 365 Edgewood Avenue Building.