Senate Research Committee
Georgia State University
Minutes from January 27, 2003


I. Approval of Minutes from November 18, 2002.

II. New Business

1. The Committee voted to table the Senate Library Advisory Committee Resolution in part because key components of the resolution were already incorporated into the University’s Action Plan. The Committee did direct the Chair to voice support for funding for libraries in the Council of Chairs.

2. Don Reitzes reminded committee members that Dr. Stuart Plattner will present on NSF funding opportunities for the Social and Behavioral Sciences on Thursday, January 30th.

III. Report from the V P for Research

1. Charles Louis distributed the summary of sponsored activities for December 2002. He called to the Committee’s attention that the number of proposals submitted, number of awards received, and dollar amount of awards were down for both the month of December and for the year.

2. He announced that a Biosafety/Homeland Security Committee had been formed to bring GSU into compliance with the federal Patriot Act.

3. He also reviewed his New Funding Plan Request for FY04 noting the budget for the Research Office has only increased 2.7% over the period FY99-FY02, which was the lowest of all 15 administrative units at GSU. He emphasized the need for a technology transfer staff member to assist faculty with their inventions.

4. Dr. Louis also reported that talks were underway with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to establish a new collaborative grants program in the behavioral and social sciences.

5. The VP also shared with the committee a draft of the new Sponsored Program Proposal Approval Form and the committee made some suggestions for revising and clarifying the form. The Committee voiced support for the goal that the form should “lower barriers” that make the approval process unnecessarily complicated and time consuming. The Committee felt that it is important for the Research Office to seek broad faculty input on the form and encouraged the Associate V P to distribute the form to faculty for suggestions and comments.

IV. Standing and Ad Hoc Subcommittees
1. Al Baumstark sent the following minutes/notes from the Responsible Conduct of Research Subcommittee’s meeting on January 23th.

>ATTENDING: A.L. Baumstark, Bala Ramesh, Anne Emanuel, Susan Laury, Kathleen Pittman, Wanda Lopez-Rochford, Art Murphy, Michael Galchinsky

>The Committee agreed that the 12 categories [(1) Data management; (2) Publication practices; (3) Authorship; (4) Peer review; (5) PI; (6) Mentoring; (7) Conflict of interest; (8) Intellectual property; (9) Human subjects; (10) Animal subjects; (11) Research misconduct; (12) Lab safety and proper lab procedures] listed in the NIH source document "Creating Effective Research Guidelines" covered the scope of the charge to the Committee. The Committee decided that items 6-12, while important, already had policies in place or would fall under legal requirements (homeland security, etc.) such that the Committee did not need to address them. Working groups were established:

>Data management: Susan Laury, Bala Ramesh
/Publication practices: Michael Galchinsky, Anne Emanuel, Kathleen Pittman
/Authorship: tentative: Tim Bartness, Cheryl Goldsleger
/Peer review: Al Baumstark, Art Murphy, (Susan Talburt?)
/PI: Al Baumstark, Art Murphy (volunteer?)

>Working group should focus on developing documents to bring to monthly meeting (TBA, middle of February)

IV. New Business

1. Laurie Tis distributed copies of an email from the Research Office regarding IRB and ASCUC approvals which introduced a broad discussion of compliance issues. The Committee strongly encouraged the Research Office to notify both the department chair and the principal investigator well before the expiration date of human subject or animal protocol approvals.

2. Crawford Elliott reported that reviews of research centers were being conducted by the members of the Research Center Review Subcommittee and asked for volunteers to serve on academic program reviews.

VII. Announcements

The next Senate Research Committee meeting will be on February 17th, 3:00-5:00 PM in 718-G.