Senate Research Committee
Georgia State University
Minutes from February 17, 2003

Present: Nichole Andrews, Albertha Barrett, Al Baumstark, Tim Bartness, Dan Benardot, Roberta Bryum, Gayle Christian, Sid Crow, Charles Derby, Crawford Elliott, Anne Emanuel, Amy Lederberg, Charles Louis, Steve Manson, Robin Morris, Art Murphy, Tom Netzel, Don Reitzes, Christine Roch, Mary Ann Romski, P. C. Tai, Laurie Tis, Vijay Vaishnavi.

I. Approval of Minutes from January 27, 2003.

II. Old Business

1. Charles Louis reported that revisions are continuing to be made to the Proposal Approval Form. After a question from P.C. Tai requested that the V.P for Research report on modular budgeting for NIH proposals, it was agreed that a check off box identifying a modular budget will be added to the form.

2. Don Reitzes reminded committee members that current Senate terms run until August 2003, so the Research Committee will meet on April 21st for a regular meeting, not meet in May, and meet in June and July only as needed.

III. Standing Committees

1. Internal Grants Subcommittee

Mary Ann Romski reported that the subcommittee will meet before the March 17th Senate Research Committee, and will consider several issues, among them concern that the Travel Grants guidelines may need to be rewritten to provide greater accessibility to research faculty in the Humanities. A related issue is to review the number of Research Initiation Grants (RIG) submitted and awarded over the last few years, as well as the overall funding levels for the RIGs and other internal grants.

The subcommittee also was requested to investigate the Research Program Enhancement (RPE) review process. Several committee members were concerned that the reviewers were given instructions that may not be consistent with published criteria for competing renewals (Category III). Further, there was also concern expressed about mixing funding issues with the decisions about the scientific merit of proposals under review. In a wide-ranging discussion, several other issues were raised including the need: (1) for an appeals process; (2) to clarify the meaning and importance for a competing continuation proposal’s “clear and common focus that integrates the research activities of individual members;” and (3) for some “safety net” for research teams that do not receive continuing funding.

In the course of the discussion the V.P for Research promised to work with chairs of departments to find other support for the graduate students who will no longer be supported by RPE funds.

2. Al Baumstark noted that the Strategic Planning Initiative Subcommittee’s report has been accepted by Planning and Development and therefore has completed its assigned task.
IV. **Report from the Vice President**

While there was no time for a formal report, the Summary of Sponsored Activities for January 2003 had been distributed electronically before the meeting.

VII. **Announcements**

The next Senate Research Committee meeting will be on March 17th, 3:00-5:00 PM in 718-G at which time we hope to hear more about promising federal support for a new Science Teaching and Laboratory Building.