Georgia State University
Senate Research Committee Meeting
January 24, 2005
Minutes

Present:            Don Reitzes (Chair), Jeff Ashby, Albertha Barrett, Tim Bartness, Al Baumstark, Roberta
Byrum, Mary Jane Casto, Missy Cody, Robert Curry, Stephen Dobranski, Crawford Elliott,
Anne Emanuel, Laura Fredrick, Kim Huhman, Amy Lederberg, Steve Manson, John Medlock,
Robin Morris, Bala Ramesh, Mary Ann Romski, Tammy Sugarman, P. C. Tai, Vijay
Vaishnavi, Art Vandenburg

Dr. Reitzes called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The first order of business was review and approval of the minutes from the December 13, 2004 meeting. A
motion was made for approval of the minutes as written; it was approved by those members present.

Dr. Reitzes asked for a motion to change the meeting agenda to allow Dr. Emanuel to present the Economic
Forecasting Center review as the next item of business followed by the election of a Research Committee
representative to the GSURF Board of Directors. A motion was made for such a change in the agenda and
was approved by those members present.

Economic Forecasting Center Review

Dr. Emanuel provided a handout detailing the Research Center Review subcommittee’s review of the
Economic Forecasting Center (EFC). She noted the two major issues in their review relate to whether the
EFC should continue to be funded as a part of the Robinson College of Business (RCB), and to Dr. Dhawan’s
request for funding for an additional full-time economist. The conclusion reached as a result of the review is
that the Center is one of the best known and most highly regarded EFCs in the US and should continue to be
funded as part of the RCB. The subcommittee made no recommendation about whether an additional
economist should be hired at the EFC.

Dr. Emanuel stated that the purview of the subcommittee does not allow it to make a recommendation for
growing the size (i. e. number of economists on staff) of the EFC at GSU. Dr. Reitzes remarked that the
conclusion reached about hiring an additional economist is appropriate since the Research Committee does
not have budgetary authority for such decisions. Dr. Romski asked if there would be any additional review of
this request by APACE. Dr. Reitzes answered that APACE reviews colleges, but the Research Committee
has been delegated the responsibility for center reviews at the university, the results from such reviews are
rolled into the APACE review for the respective college. There was further discussion about the
subcommittee’s responsibility regarding the EFC request to fund an additional economist, it was decided that
the wording of the final sentence in the memorandum from the subcommittee would be modified. Dr. Reitzes
asked for a motion to approve the Research Center Review subcommittee’s report as modified, the Committee
voted to do so.

Election of Research Committee Representative to the GSURF Board of Directors

Dr. Lederberg was previously one of two representatives from the Research Committee elected to the GSURF
Board. But since she has been appointed Associate Vice President for Research, a new committee member needs to be elected to serve out her term. Dr. Tai is the other elected representative. Dr. Reitzes asked the group to make nominations and Dr. Romski nominated Dr. Dabney Dixon to be the new representative, the nominations were then closed. A vote was taken and Dr. Dixon was elected as the new representative to the GSURF Board of Directors to replace Dr. Lederberg.

Size/Composition of Senate Research Committee

Dr. Reitzes noted that about a year ago the Committee of Chairs requested the Research Committee to review its mission, size and composition. The recommendations from that undertaking were sent to the Statutes and Bylaws Committee, Dr. Lederberg is a past chair of this Committee, so Dr. Reitzes asked her to discuss the changes. Dr. Lederberg stated that almost every Senate committee has submitted its changes to the Statutes and Bylaws Committee, which came up with several general principals by which to govern changes to the size and composition of Senate committees, as follows:

1. Except in compelling cases, exofficio administrators or staff added to committees will be nonvoting.
2. Faculty senators’ appointment to committees will not be restricted by proportionality rules nor will committees have limitations on the number of faculty that will be on committees.
3. The nominations committee will be asked to follow two broad principles (to accomplish the same goals as 2):
   a. In general, faculty senators will not serve on more than two Standing Senate committees unless the faculty senator submits a compelling argument for three or more committee assignments. (This does not include committees that are not part of the nominations process; i.e., Executive Committee, FACP, and Nominations).
   b. In general, committees will remain approximately the same size unless there is a specific request from the current committee to increase or decrease its size.

The Committee of Chairs is scheduled to meet on February 16th to review and consider these principals.

Dr. Lederberg then reviewed the revised statement of the Research Committee composition as submitted by Dr. Retizes to the Committee of Chairs last year:

The Committee on Research shall be composed of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; the Vice President for Research; the Vice President for Finance and Administration; one student who is a member of the Senate; one staff senator; and at least twenty-six (26) faculty members and at most thirty (30) faculty members, as follows: six (6) members from the College of Arts and Sciences; three (3) members each from the J. Mack Robinson College of Business and the College of Education; one (1) member each from the College of Health and Human Sciences and the College of Law; one (1) member from the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies; with the remainder elected at large.

Dr. Lederberg stated that the questions raised by the Statutes and Bylaws Committee about the composition statement were as follows:

The Provost was on the committee when there was no VP of Research. We suggest taking him/her off the committee.

There was discussion on this point, and it was decided that the Provost should continue to be a member of the Research Committee.

Instead of the VP for Finance, the Research Committee should consider placing the Finance Administrator who is most appropriate as a voting ex officio member (e.g., Comptroller) or if duties are not tied to title then “an administrator appointed by the Vice President for Finance and
On this point, Dr. Reitzes recognized Ms. Byrum’s service to the Research Committee in the past and asked that she continue to serve on the committee, therefore it was recommended that the composition statement be changed to the following: “…the Vice President of Finance and Administration or an appointee of the Vice President of Finance and Administration…”.

The Statutes and Bylaws Committee further recommended that the statement regarding the size of the Research Committee not be changed from the old language which stated that a minimum number of faculty be appointed as follows:

“… at least eighteen (18) faculty members, as follows: three (3) members each from the College of Arts and Sciences, the J. Mack Robinson College of Business, and the College of Education; one (1) member each from the College of Health and Human Sciences and the College of Law; one (1) member from the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies; with the remainder elected at large.”

Dr. Reitzes countered that because of the complexity of the Research Committee’s mission and duties and its numerous subcommittees, plus the need to routinely appoint ad hoc subcommittees to deal with research policy issues, there is a requirement that at least 26 faculty members be appointed to the Research Committee. Dr. Lederberg stated that the intent of the principals adopted by the Statutes and Bylaws Committee is to keep the size of all of the Senate committees about the same. There was further discussion on this point and it was decided that the language specifying the number of members should allow any number of faculty between 26 and 30 to be appointed to the Research Committee. Dr. Reitzes stated that he will bring this to the attention of the Committee of Chairs.

**IRBWise Demonstration**

Dr. Shelia White, IRB Compliance Officer, made a presentation to the Committee demonstrating the new software application IRBWise, which will be rolled out to the university in March to allow electronic submission of human subjects’ protocol applications, renewals and amendments for review by the IRB. Dr. White indicated that IDs and passwords required for using IRBWise will be predetermined for faculty members. Students should contact the IRB Office to get an ID and password for using IRBWise. Instructions for the system will be posted on the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) website by February 7, the system will go live on March 1 and researchers will be expected to start using the system for submissions beginning March 14.

Dr. White also demonstrated the online training module that will be required for human subjects’ researchers, called “CITI.” It offers modules for biomedical research and the behavioral/social sciences. Users will self assign IDs and passwords for this system. Co-PIs from other institutions that are collaborating on research at GSU will not be required to take this training; GSU will accept the training requirements from their home institution.

After the demonstration, Dr. White took questions. Dr. Morris asked if existing protocols are already in the IRBWise system, Dr. White answered yes. Dr. Bartness asked if IRB members will need to bring a laptop to the monthly meetings in order to review protocols, Dr. White answered yes. Dr. Romski asked if alerts about protocols will be sent to PIs via e-mail, Dr. White answered yes. Dr. Tis asked if approval signatures will be handled electronically, Dr. White answered yes, and noted that she has been conducting training with department chairs and others on how this is accomplished. Dr. White stated that training certification is valid for three years after a researcher has satisfactorily passed the required modules.

Dr. Tai remarked that a better system is needed to remind faculty about what training is required and when deadlines for training are coming up for researchers. He said it has become very difficult to get research done at GSU because the compliance requirements are too onerous. He added that GSU’s compliance officers are overzealous and seem to only want to find violations, not help researchers with compliance. He
stated that he is all for compliance, but the certification requirements are too difficult. Dr. Tis commented that the Radiation/Biosafety compliance officers have been particularly heavy handed with researchers, but part of the reason may be due to more regulations being issued recently for these areas. Dr. Romski reminded the group that the last Vice President for Research left the Research Office in a terrible situation, so we cannot expect change to occur overnight, therefore need to be patient.

Dr. Tai stated that his department has had a lot of problems getting modular grant budgets approved by the Office of Sponsored Programs. Dr. Morris responded that a new policy was developed for modular grants and submitted to the Research Committee for review and approval. Dr. Tai stated that may be true, but the staff in Sponsored Programs doesn’t seem to know anything about this new policy, therefore he asked Dr. Morris to send the new policy out to all researchers on campus. Dr. Tai added that his researchers have been getting notices from the Research Office that their grants are about to expire, but they are multi-year projects and are not really going to expire, which confuses researchers.

Dr. Reitzes stated that in some ways the issues being raised by Dr. Tai are related to Research Infrastructure, but perhaps they should be directed to the Research Integrity subcommittee or an ad hoc subcommittee. He added that Dr. Tai does have access to the Vice President for Research at these monthly meetings and can bring problems to his attention at that time as well.

Subcommittee Reports

Research Infrastructure Subcommittee

Dr. Manson stated that his subcommittee has been working on a proposal to apply for a grant to obtain funding for computing hardware to support a research network cluster at GSU. The application will be submitted shortly.

Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Dr. Tis reported that the subcommittee has been working on revising the Roles and Responsibilities document and plans to have a draft available for the Research Committee to review by the next meeting.

Internal Grants Subcommittee

Dr. Romski reported that the subcommittee has not met, but will be meeting in February. She stated that some of the Internal Grants documentation needs to be updated and her group is working on a detailed list of everything that needs to be corrected. Dr. Lederberg noted that summer salaries will be covered by Research Initiation Grants this year; this item has been added as an allowable expense. The due date for RIG applications is February 12.

Research Center Review Subcommittee

Dr. Reitzes said there was no new business other than the review of the Economic Forecasting Center which had been presented by Dr. Emanuel.

Report from the Vice President for Research

Dr. Morris announced that Dr. Lederberg has been appointed as the Associate Vice President for Research, filling the position vacated by Dr. Art Murphy. He asked that faculty direct research issues to her attention. He also announced that Mary Beran has accepted the IACUC Compliance Officer position; she has previously
Dr. Morris reported that there have been serious problems with heating systems not working in Kell Hall during the recent cold weather period, this affected some animals in labs in that area. Also, he reported a water line break which flooded several labs in that building, disrupting research and causing extensive damage. He noted that the university will cover expenses for the repairs and he will write to government agencies to request funds as needed.

Dr. Morris reported that a 4th request will soon be made to the Board of Regents to obtain approval to construct a modular animal facility on the GSU campus; he noted the 3 previous requests have been declined.

Dr. Morris stated that the Science Park planning is complete but funding may not be secured this year. He noted that $3 million in funding is needed for this year in order to keep the project going. He added that a private donor has pledged to give $5 million for naming the Teaching Lab, one of 4 buildings proposed for the Science Park. He also noted that the Battelle Consultants report about the economic incubator building is to be finalized soon; he will forward a copy to the committee when it is available.

**Announcements**

The next committee meeting will be held at 3:00pm on February 21, 2005 in room 718-G.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39pm.