Dr. Reitzes called the meeting to order at 3:06 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The first order of business was review and approval of the minutes from the January 24, 2005 meeting. A motion was made for approval of the minutes as written; it was approved by those members present.

Dr. Reitzes stated that this meeting would be the last for the members appointed to the Research Committee for this fiscal year. New members have been appointed for the next fiscal year and will convene at the meeting of the committee scheduled for April 25, 2005.

ASUR Report - Office of Research

Dr. Reitzes stated that the ASUR report has been completed for the Office of Research and is currently being reviewed by the P&D Committee. Dr. Tai has asked the Research Committee to provide him with any comments/recommendations which he will in turn communicate to P&D Committee members. Dr. Reitzes asked members to forward any comments they may have to Dr. Tai within the next few days.

Subcommittee Reports

Research Infrastructure Subcommittee

Ms. Byrum stated that an issue has come up regarding how equipment is to be handled when a faculty member leaves GSU. Ms. Byrum noted that once the equipment has been purchased for use at GSU, regardless of whether it was purchased with state appropriations or with funds from a grant, it becomes the property of the state of Georgia and must be disposed of in accordance with state laws. Normally disposal involves the equipment being sent to surplus and then advertised for sale; generally it is sold via auction to the highest bidder.

She advised that documentation in grant contracts as to title of ownership for equipment must be written such that there is flexibility if the faculty member would like to keep equipment after leaving GSU. Dr. Tai asked if this policy only applies to purchases, or if it also applies to equipment transferred to GSU with a faculty member when he/she is hired. Dr. Morris and Ms. Byrum both responded that transferred equipment would need to be gifted to GSU upon a faculty member’s arrival; it then becomes the property of GSU. Dr. Reitzes added that approval of the Board of Regents and the governor of Georgia would be required in order to allow faculty to take equipment with them when they leave GSU.

Dr. Dixon stated it was her understanding that this policy is not the same at other universities and it will make
it difficult to attract competitive candidates for faculty positions at the university. Dr. Morris remarked it is his understanding that other universities have the same policy as GSU. Moreover, he stated that a faculty member’s data collected while conducting research at GSU is also the property of the university. He added that the university can loan equipment to another institution if needed, but there would have to be a loan agreement in place for this to happen.

After further discussion, it was decided that Ms. Byrum will obtain verbiage from John Marshall regarding loans and put into the equipment policy her subcommittee has developed.

Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Dr. Reitzes reported that the subcommittee is still working on revising the Roles and Responsibilities document and plans to have a draft available by the end of this summer.

Internal Grants Subcommittee

Dr. Reitzes reported that the subcommittee is developing a list of issues that the new members of the subcommittee will work on over the summer.

Research Center Review Subcommittee

Dr. Reitzes stated there are no centers currently under review. Dr. Tai asked if service centers are reviewed when department reviews are done. Dr. Reitzes stated that centers are reviewed at the same time as the department is reviewed, but this subcommittee only reviews research centers, not service centers.

Report from the Vice President for Research

Dr. Morris announced that 67 applications were submitted for the Research Initiation, Mentoring and Team internal grants. He and Dr. Lederberg met today with a committee to review a number of the applications. He expects awards to be announced in the next month or so.

Dr. Morris announced that interviews are being conducted for the university veterinarian position and he hopes to have the position filled shortly. He reported that candidates will be coming in during April to interview for the vacant Director of Technology Commercialization position.

Dr. Morris stated that the legislature has approved $2.7 million in design funding for the Science Park, if the governor signs this version of the budget then the buildings could be finished within three years. He said the new buildings are desperately needed because there have been continuing problems with the infrastructure and systems in Kell Hall. He noted that a critical HVAC system has failed in Kell Hall which basically curtailed or severely restricted several faculty members’ research. The HVAC unit is not expected to be repaired until sometime late this summer.

Dr. Morris reported that the modular animal facility is expected to be approved by the Board of Regents at their next meeting and could be ready for occupancy later this summer. This should help with space needs until the new Science Park buildings are completed.

Dr. Morris stated that the number of protocols required to be reviewed by the various compliance committees has significantly increased this year. He also reported that a system of grid ware is being considered for purchase at GSU to create a 1,000 node network on campus to assist with research computing needs.
Dr. Lederberg asked the committee to send suggestions to her regarding topics they would like to see included in the RED training program next year. Ms. Cody asked if all of the department chairs have received training on the new electronic submission procedures for IRB protocols. Dr. Morris stated they should have received the training, contact Dr. Sheila White if the department chair needs assistance.

Dr. Reitzes reported he has heard some complaints about the fact that exempt review of IRB protocols now requires two signatures (IRB chair and an IRB member) in addition to the department chair signature. This used to be considered an expedited review. Dr. Morris stated that the IRB procedures are just catching up with the federal guidelines, but this is a requirement of the regulations.

Dr. Alberto remarked that since so many more protocol reviews are now required, perhaps there could be two different IRB committees appointed to handle the reviews. Dr. Morris stated that the number of reviews has dramatically increased, and he is considering setting up a second IRB committee to review protocols, but it is very difficult to get faculty members to commit to serve on such committees. He added that currently, over 120 faculty members are involved in serving on the compliance committees at GSU.

Dr. Tai asked if the depth of the reviews could be lessened in the later years of a grant once the initial full review has been completed, assuming there is not a substantive change in the research protocol. Dr. Morris responded that the regulations require that each year the same type of review be conducted based upon the type of initial review a protocol receives, therefore, if the protocol qualifies for exempt review in the first year, it will always have an exempt review for each year of the grant; otherwise it will require full review each year.

**Announcements**

The next committee meeting will be held at 3:00pm on April 25, 2005 in room 718-G.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:49pm.