Georgia State University  
Senate Research Committee Meeting  
October 17, 2005  
Minutes

Present:            Don Reitzes (Chair), Paul Alberto, Robert Curry, Chuck Derby, Julian Diaz, Stephen Dobranski, Crawford Elliott, Laura Fredrick, David Houchins, Kim Huhman, John Medlock, Steve Manson, Robin Morris, Jerry Rackliffe, Bala Ramesh, Christine Roach, Mary Ann Romsksi, Laurie Tis, Vijay Vaishnavi, Art Vandenberg

Dr. Reitzes called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

Approval of September 19, 2005 Meeting Minutes

The first order of business was review and approval of the minutes from the September 19, 2005 meeting. No member present at the meeting asked that changes be made to the minutes. A motion was made for approval of the minutes; the motion was seconded and the minutes were approved by those Committee members present.

Academic Misconduct Policy

Dr. Curry went over the recently updated policy on academic misconduct. He stated that previously the policy was named scientific misconduct, but is being changed because a variety of misconduct cases have come up which are not scientific in nature. The policy has been broadened to include both the arts and sciences. There was discussion about the title of the policy and whether it should cover issues unrelated to research activities. Dr. Curry gave the example of a case where a faculty member falsified credentials, but several Committee members felt this was a matter covered for faculty by other university policies.

Some other notable changes to the policy are as follows:

Individuals against whom complaints are made are given more opportunity for input into misconduct proceedings.

Multiple appraisals are communicated to the individual against whom a complaint is made to provide more information about how the proceedings are progressing.

A new step has been added to conduct a preliminary review of an initial complaint by a much smaller group of administrators (VP for Research, AVP for Research Integrity and a representative from Legal Affairs) in order to decide if the facts in the complaint are of sufficient nature to go forward with a formal investigation. This step was added to ensure that frivolous cases do not go forward.

The time period for responses by those against whom a complaint has been made is extended from 5 days to 10 days. The overall period for a decision on a case is 120 days.

Dr. Derby asked if Dr. Curry could provide a copy of the revised policy with all changes from the previous policy highlighted, but Dr. Curry responded that the changes constitute a complete rewrite of the policy, so this may not be feasible. Dr. Alberto asked if an executive summary could be added, Dr. Curry agreed to do this. Dr. Elliott asked if the policy has any effect on students, Dr. Curry responded that the policy only applies to faculty, there are separate university policies covering students and staff.

There was additional discussion about the title of the policy and whether it should apply not only to scientific research activities, but also to scholarly and artistic/creative activities of faculty members in disciplines other
than the sciences. It was recommended that the language of the policy be broadened to include such activities. In addition, Dr. Alberto asked that examples of activities in these areas be added to the policy.

The Committee voted to approve the document with the recommended edits and send it to the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee for further review.

Subcommittee Reports

Internal Grants

Dr. Romski reported that the subcommittee has begun discussing reorganization of the Internal Grants program. They are reviewing all of the documentation for the current program with the intent to modify it to be more inclusive of all areas of scholarship at the university. They are proposing a new grant program for faculty working on a project that need funding to complete their work. There was some discussion about rolling this proposed new grant program into the existing Research Initiation Grants pool, but Dr. Dobranski commented that keeping it separate is advantageous because it allows new faculty to continue to apply for a program which does not require them to compete for funding with more senior faculty.

Dr. Morris reported that the Provost approved the revised RPE grant program and award letters will be going out shortly.

Research Integrity

Dr. Tis reported that the Roles & Responsibilities document next goes to the Administrative Council for approval. Dr. Morris stated that the report is being held up so that the new Research department names can be added into the document; it will then be submitted to the Council for review.

Strategic Planning

Dr. Derby reported that there are three meetings scheduled for this semester, one in October, November and December. At the October meeting, the Provost handed out mostly data tables and there was discussion about retention and quality indicators, or how best to utilize our resources. For the time being, the Provost has not shown an interest in reviewing programs. Dr. Derby expects that the November meeting will focus on budget issues.

Report from the Vice President for Research

Dr. Morris provided a handout showing the new functional organization chart for his unit, which shows revised names for many departments. Notable changes include the overall unit name now being University Research Services and Administration (URSA). The Grants and Contracts department will be named Research Financial Services. Several job classifications will also be changed in the departments. The new organization chart is shown below.
Dr. Morris then gave an update on the Science Park. He reported the state agency (GSFIC) that will handle issuance of bonds as well as the actual construction of the project, has approved our financing plan.

Mr. Rackliffe provided an overview of the complexities of the financing arrangement. About $50 million of funding will come from the state, $25 million will come from private fundraising by GSU, and $55 million will come from the bond issue, which will be paid back by GSURF. Since all of the required funding will not be available up front, there will be a series of phases for the project. The first will be the predevelopment phase which is currently underway. Part of that phase is engagement of a manager to oversee the entire project from start to finish, a period expected to last approximately three years. The RFP for the program manager is being let out in the next few weeks. After the program manager is hired, an RFP for the architect will be let out and the design phase will begin.

Mr. Rackliffe noted that a big hurdle for GSU will be getting the capital appropriation from the legislature for the state portion of funding for the project. Because the university is having some budget problems this year, Dr. Patton is working to convince our legislators to provide their portion of the funding for the project during the next legislative session. Mr. Rackliffe is performing an analysis of cash that will be needed for the project over the next year so that GSU can keep it going forward. Dr. Morris added that some venture capital type firms have approached GSU with an interest in being involved as a partner in the economic development building portion of the Science Park.

Dr. Morris reported that the Georgia Research Alliance is also having a few problems with their funding, and some of the awards that were promised to GSU last year have not yet been received. He noted that the GRA is reevaluating its strategic plan now, and may be shifting its focus on areas of development over the next few years.

Dr. Romski asked about laboratory spot checks by the Office of Research Integrity at GSU. Dr. Morris stated
that he is not aware of any such lab inspections by his office. Several Committee members have heard rumors about this, so Dr. Morris asked for specifics to be sent to him for follow up.

**Announcements**

The next Committee meeting will be held at 3:00pm on November 21 in 718-G.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08pm.

These minutes were amended and approved by the Committee 11/21/2005.