Dr. Reitzes called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The first order of business was review and approval of the minutes from the March 21, 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 members present.

Election of Committee Chair for FY06

Dr. Reitzes asked for nominations for Committee Chair for the FY06 period. A motion was made by Dr. Baumstark to nominate Dr. Reitzes as Committee Chair; it was seconded by Dr. Tai. Dr. Reitzes was unanimously elected to be Committee Chair for FY06.

Meeting Calendar

Dr. Reitzes handed out the proposed meeting schedule for Committee meetings for FY06. The meeting schedule is as follows:

- May 16 – Regular Meeting /3:00-5:00 PM in 718-G
- June 20 – Regular Meeting /3:00-5:00 PM in 718-G
- July 18 – Regular Meeting /3:00-5:00 PM in 718-G
- August 22 – (4th Monday of the Month) Regular Meeting /3:00-5:00 PM in 718-G
- September 19 Regular Meeting /3:00-5:00 PM in 718-G
- October 17 – Regular Meeting /3:00-5:00 PM in 718-G
- November 21 – Regular Meeting /3:00-5:00 PM in 718-G
- December 12 – (2nd Monday of the Month) Regular Meeting /3:00-5:00 PM in 718-G
- January 23 – (4th Monday of the Month) Regular Meeting /3:00-5:00 PM in 718-G
- February 20 – Regular Meeting /3:00-5:00 PM in 718-G
- March 20 – Regular Meeting /3:00-5:00 PM in 718-G

Dr. Reitzes noted that the June and July meetings are normally only held if the Committee determines there is a specific need to meet.

Subcommittee Volunteers for FY06

Dr. Reitzes asked members to volunteer to serve on one or more subcommittees for the coming year. He then asked the chair for each to give a description of their subcommittee’s activities.
Internal Grants
Dr. Romski is chair of this subcommittee, but she was absent so Dr. Reitzes asked Dr. Manson to give a brief description. He stated that each year after the Internal Grants competition is concluded; this group looks at any problems encountered or goals that were not met and tweaks guidelines in order to address such problems.

Dr. Reitzes noted that one problem which needs to be addressed relates to the timing of announcement of awards. Department chairs need to know earlier in the year which faculty members will be receiving awards so that alternative faculty can be assigned summer teaching responsibilities. Dr. Morris remarked that it may be difficult to make the announcements earlier because the final budgets for the next year are not usually ready until late April or early May. Dr. Baumstark asked if the initiation of the award could be postponed by an additional fiscal year so that the announcement would not have such an impact. It was noted the problem with this approach is that state funds, which comprise the Internal Grants, cannot be carried over from one year to the next, so this is not be a feasible solution.

Dr. Dobranski noted another item which needs to be addressed is the request made last year to set up a new grant under the Internal Grants program which would be dedicated to funding research in the Humanities. Dr. Lederberg responded that the statistics indicate the Humanities usually receive a large portion of the funding from the Internal Grants program, she will provide details regarding distribution of awards at the next Committee meeting. Dr. Dobranski also noted that the research initiation grants are still targeted at new faculty and another piece of unfinished business from last year is to modify this program so that tenured faculty will have an equal chance to obtain this type of award.

Research Center Review
Dr. Reitzes stated this subcommittee works jointly with the academic program review committee (APACE). When APACE is conducting an academic program review of a department, this subcommittee is charged with the responsibility to review any research centers affiliated with that department, instruction or service centers are evaluated by APACE. Typically the subcommittee does not meet; Dr. Reitzes makes assignments to members based upon the number of research centers which need to be reviewed each year.

Research Infrastructure
Dr. Manson and Ms. Byrum are co-chairs of this subcommittee. The charge of this subcommittee is to assist in developing and/or refining structures and processes related to University research. Ms. Byrum stated that some of the projects this group has been involved with include development of research policy for the definition of a principal investigator and a policy regarding openness in research. A new issue which has been brought forward to this group is the definition of limited term professionals.

Research Integrity
Dr. Tis is chair of this subcommittee which deals with policies relating to the research compliance function. The group is still reviewing the Roles and Responsibilities document which it began working on last year.

Strategic Planning
Dr. Derby is involved in a number of areas, working on the University action plan, helping with the ad hoc review of programs, and review of the external review of the Research Office. This group represents the Research Committee’s interface to the Planning and Development committee.

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Report from the Vice President for Research
Dr. Morris stated that a party is in order because he just learned that increases in the Research Office budget will be linked to increases in Indirect Costs going forward beginning next fiscal year. He thanked the Research Committee for their support in getting this approved. The Research Office is expected to get ¼ of the increase in Indirect Cost each year. He added that his goal is to grow the University’s external funding for research up to $100 million over the next five years; this linkage will help meet this goal.

The ASUR report was completed last year, but is now to be revised and re-reviewed beginning in the fall. He noted that some a consultant has been engaged to come in and perform a complete organizational review of the research infrastructure in his office as well as the colleges. The company which will be doing this review is Huron Consultants; he asked that members of the Committee participate in this if needed.

The DS2 is an official federal filing for compliance regarding accounting procedures followed by the University for its grants. GSU last completed and filed their DS2 in 1986, so a new one is required. A consultant named Jim Vatali has been hired to assist with the development of our DS2 filing. Dr. Morris stated the process will take about a year and that a steering committee has been formed to deal with issues. He noted that Ms. Byrum is on the steering committee along with others from the Finance & Administration unit. Dr. Reitzes asked if this project is related to determination of the indirect cost rate. Dr. Morris responded that it is unrelated, the indirect cost rate has been set for the next 5 years; this rate was renegotiated last year.

Dr. Tai asked if someone from Human Resources would be appointed to the steering committee, Dr. Morris answered yes. Dr. Tai noted that there is a problem with charging summer salaries on grants that needs to be addressed. Ms. Byrum will follow up on this issue with Dr. Tai. Ms. Casto asked if a representative from IS&T would be on the steering committee, Dr. Morris thought this was a good idea.

Dr. Morris announced that the IRB Wise electronic system for management of human subjects’ protocols has been rolled out and seems to have been well received. He noted there have been a few glitches, but he has not been hearing a lot of complaints. He added that electronic management of grants is the wave of the future and the Research Office is working to implement new systems which will allow for this by faculty. One problem with this is that the various federal agencies have different requirements, signoffs, approvals and workflows and his office is grappling with how to efficiently administer the new electronic requirements for all of the different agencies.

Dr. Morris also announced that the Research Office has hired a full time web coordinator to work on improving the department website and coordinating all of the software applications that are in place and will be needed to handle growing electronic grants administration requirements. He added that this person will report both to him and to IS&T so is a shared employee.

Dr. Lederberg announced the new CDC/GSU collaborative grants program. The grants offer awards of up to $60K to be paid over a two year period. These are collaborative grants and must include a GSU faculty member working with a researcher at the CDC. The grants are funded 50% by GSU and 50% by the CDC. The due date for applications is August 1, 2005. The priorities are social and behavioral sciences as applied to public health issues and programs. She added that there will be a poster fair which is the method used last time this competition was held to give faculty a chance to meet a fellow collaborator at CDC. The date of the poster session will be announced in an upcoming Research Update newsletter, it will probably be held during the summer.

Announcements

The next Committee meeting will be held at 3:00pm on May 16 in 718-G.
The meeting was adjourned at 3:51pm.