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

Approval of August 22, 2005 Meeting Minutes

The first order of business was review and approval of the minutes from the August 22, 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.

Subcommittee Reports

Internal Grants

Dr. Dobranski reported that the subcommittee has met twice since the last Research Committee meeting in August. The subcommittee has unanimously approved the proposal to transform the research program enhancement internal grant program (RPE) to permanent academic program support. Thus the subcommittee is recommending that the RPE program be sunset after this year. Dr. Tai moved to accept the subcommittee’s recommendation. There was some discussion before the motion was voted on. Dr. Dixon asked for clarification about the number of review cycles. Dr. Lederberg responded that in order to make an RPE award a commitment of permanent academic program support, it must have been reviewed for three full three-year cycles; no new RPEs can be submitted this year. A vote was then taken and the motion to support the recommendation was unanimously approved by those committee members present.

Dr. Dobranski stated that at the subcommittee’s next meeting, the group will continue to review all other internal grant programs to clarify their descriptive language, realign application deadlines with faculty needs, enhance the application instructions, etc.

Research Integrity

Dr. Tis reported on the subcommittee’s review of the *Roles and Responsibilities of Georgia State University Employees Engaged in Sponsored Project Management and Oversight* document. She stated that it is a very long document but has been reorganized so that the first section covers the roles of individuals and the second section covers responsibilities for transactions. This change should make the document more understandable for faculty/staff. She said there were mostly technical changes made within the body of the document, not enormous changes to its content. She said that the document now fully explains the process for handling externally funded projects from top to bottom. She noted that there have been additions made for required safety and regulatory compliance changes.
Dr. Morris commented that one of the main reasons for reorganizing the document was to reinforce the notion that the Principal Investigator is responsible for most all activity on externally funded research. Another feature of the document is the importance of oversight by the higher levels of administration at the university, as well as the college Deans, university administration, local government agencies, state agencies, and federal agencies. His plan is to keep this as a living document which is updated annually and he has asked Dr. Lederberg to incorporate educating faculty/staff about the requirements set out in the document into her training programs.

Dr. Reitzes asked if the document needs to be approved by the full university Senate. Dr. Morris responded that if it is approved by the Research Committee, it would then need to be presented to the Administrative Council for final approval before being rolled out to the entire university community.

A vote was taken to approve the Roles and Responsibilities document as presented; it was unanimously approved by those Committee members present.

**Research Infrastructure**

Dr. Reitzes noted that this subcommittee previously had Roberta Byrum as a co-chair, but she has left the university. He stated that she was a wonderful colleague and provided exceptional service to the Committee for many years. He proposed that, on behalf of the Committee, he write a letter of appreciation to Ms Byrum. He will send out a draft of the letter to the Committee for approval before the next meeting.

Dr. Reitzes asked Mr. Rackliffe if he will be attending the Committee meetings going forward as Ms. Byrum’s replacement. Mr. Rackliffe advised that Beth Jones, who recently had a serious illness and is in the hospital, will be Ms. Byrum’s replacement, but until Ms. Jones returns to work, he plans to attend.

**Research Center Review**

Dr. Reitzes reported that the subcommittee has been asked to review six research centers this year.

**Strategic Planning**

Dr. Derby reported that a strategic planning meeting hasn’t yet been convened this year by the Provost, so there is nothing to report.

**Report from the Vice President for Research**

Dr. Morris provided a handout showing the number of days between submission of protocols to the IRB and the Boards response. For all proposals since last July, amounting to 600 – 700 submissions, only about 110 required full reviews and the average length of time between submission and approval was 34 days. There were 10 protocols that had to go back to the full committee after initial review, which lengthened the time for approval. The committee currently has a guideline that approval should be complete within 90 days of submission, but the IRB has decided to shorten this time period to 60 days effective immediately. Dr. Baumstark asked how responses are communicated to faculty/staff. Dr. Morris responded that all communications are handled electronically through IRBWise.

Dr. Alberto asked what happened with the IRB review process in April 2005, where the average length of time between submission and approval was 92 days. Dr. Morris responded that there was one outlier which
caused the average for that month to be much longer than usual. Dr. Elifson asked about the level of satisfaction of faculty with the overall IRB process and the morale of the members on the IRB. Dr. Morris responded the faculty that he has spoken to seem satisfied with the IRB process now that IRBWise has been implemented and that the load on IRB members is approaching being excessive, but unfortunately it is difficult to get faculty members to agree to serve on the compliance committees, but he will consider a second IRB committee if it becomes necessary. Dr. Morris stated that he feels the administrative process for IRB reviews has improved dramatically overall during the last year.

Dr. Alberto brought up the issue of requiring a full IRB review for any protocol involving a human subject that has a disability, because of the special regulations. Dr. Morris stated that he was not aware of the specifics, but it would be a decision to be made by the IRB, not his office. He added that if faculty members feel their area is underrepresented on the IRB, please contact him to nominate someone from that area to serve as a member.

Dr. Lederberg announced that five new joint CDC/GSU seed grants have been recently awarded, a formal announcement will be sent out later. Also, on October 19 from 2pm – 4pm, a social/behavioral science symposium will be held where 4 of the 5 previous CDC/GSU seed grant recipients will make presentations and the new awardees will be announced. The symposium will be held at the new CDC visitor center on Clifton Road.

Dr. Morris gave an update on the Science Park. He reported that an RFP is being developed by the Board of Regents to advertise for a Program Manager for the buildings, this person will coordinate engagement and management of all of the contractors for the buildings. Ground-breaking is expected to happen this summer. There will be a GSU coordinating committee that will work with the Science Park Program manager to make sure construction of the building meets faculty needs.

The Regional Biocontainment Lab grant proposal which Dr. Morris submitted last year came in ranked 5th, but only the top 4 proposals have been selected to receive funding. Some of the RBL programming will now be integrated into the Research building of the Science Park.

Dr. Morris reported that the modular animal care facility which had been designed to go into a movable building now will have to be stick built because the federal government has bought all of the modular buildings for hurricane Katrina victims.

Dr. Morris asked Mr. Rackliffe to give an update on the purchase of land by the Research Foundation for graduate student interest housing. Mr. Rackliffe reported that the environmental analysis of the parcels of land which we have made an offer on came back with a few issues which need to be checked out. The process of checking out the environmental issues is underway now.

Dr. Morris reported that he is also investigating getting approval from the Georgia Research Alliance to hire an additional Eminent Scholar this year, but there have been some problems with the GRA getting funding from bond sales, which could prevent this from happening in FY06.

New Business

Dr. Dobranski asked about adding new members for the year to the Internal Grants subcommittee. Dr. Reitzes stated that it has already been taken care of, Missy Cody from H&HS and Christine Roch from AYSPS are the new subcommittee members this year.

Announcements
The next Committee meeting will be held at 3:00pm on October 17 in 718-G.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55pm.