Georgia State University
Senate Research Committee Meeting
October 16th, 2006
Minutes

Present::  Don Reitzes (Chair), Paul Alberto, Albertha Barrett, Ed Bullwinked, Robert Curry, Chuck Derby, Julian Diaz, Stephen Dobranski, Crawford Elliot, Sara Fuchs (Digital Services Librarian), Skye Hardesty, David Houchins, Kim Huhman, Beth Jones, Amy Lederberg, Randy Malamud, Robin Morris, Bala Ramesh, Rose Sevcik, Audrey Shilnikov, Laurie Tis, Vijay Vaishnavi, Art Vandenberg, and Shyamalie Wijeratne.

Dr. Reitzes called the meeting to order at 3.08 p.m.

Approval of minutes – September 18th meeting minutes were approved.

Sara Fuchs, Digital Services Librarian, presented information on new GSU online institutional repository encompassing electronic theses and dissertations, scholarly output of the university faculty, staff and students, learning objects, digital rights management, electronic publishing, and other digital projects. The discussion focused on what could be stored, including manuscripts, related materials, prepublication paper drafts, datasets, etc. NIH now has requirements for long-term availability for other researchers of the raw data from large grants after grant is completed and investigator papers have been submitted. Concerns regarding security and copyright issues, problems with pre-publication postings before publication in journals, etc. Ms. Fuchs reported that they would work on guidelines and address these issues for researchers and would come to a future meeting to report on the development of this online repository.

Internal Grants – No report, reminded everyone of coming deadlines. See University Research website.

Research Center Review - Dr. Don Reitzes stated that the schedule to review these centers will be forthcoming.

Research Integrity  - No report

Research Infrastructure – No report

Strategic Planning - Dr. Chuck Derby stated that subcommittee provided input to the Provost for this year’s action plan.

Report from the VP for Research - Dr. Morris reported: 1) on the new Science Park buildings and the cost escalation due to delays in funding and Katrina construction cost increases. Budget may be over 20% above budget and some hard choices regarding how to cut the scope of the project will have to be made. 2) Federal Disclosure Statement – 2 (DS-2) workshops around campus were very well attended and raised some good issues which will require fine tuning. Federal auditor has already started audit which will have multiple parts. All faculty need to understand current DS-2 GSU policy and procedures and follow them. One of the most difficult areas for most faculty and research administrators is the Personal Effort Reporting (PERS) component. University Research will be implementing a new online PERS system that will help make some of these issues more explicit in the next 6-9 months. URSA will be providing some examples of Personal Effort Reporting on grants from Proposal Commitment, to actual Effort documentation, to budget charges and reporting requirements. It is understood that the current grant related HR procedures and problems are undergoing a complete review and hopefully this will result in more efficient and responsive business processes which will assist all PIs in completing their PER certifications in the future. Beth Jones is heading that part of the process. Committee
members expressed how they had learned from the workshops, but it was also pointed out that new faculty might have been disheartened with the reality of the time needed for research administration on grants. There was a short discussion of the need for increased staffing in this area to help support faculty PIs. 3) A new online proposal tracking system has been implemented in the URSA office (2nd floor, Alumni Hall) which will form the basis of a more sophisticated online internal proposal submission and routing systems so sign-offs and processing can be more efficient. 4) An online Customer Service Survey was completed by PIs, research staff and administrators during September. Initial results suggest that most users find the staff helpful and professional, but most processes take too long to complete. We’re currently completing a review of all business processes and will try to determine ways to decrease processing times and provide more timely feedback. 5) University Research has continued to have difficulties in maintaining a full staff in the Research Administration area (Sponsored Programs, Research Financial Services). If you know of persons looking for jobs that you think might be good in these areas, please send them to HR and have them apply.

Announcements
The next meeting of the Senate Research Committee will be on Monday, November 2, 2006 from 3.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. in 315 Alumni Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.