Senate Research Committee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 28, 2008 
315 Alumni Hall – 3:00 PM 

Attendees: Donald Reitzes (Chair), Beth Jones, Tim Bartness, Rose Sevcik, Chris Henrich, Robert Curry, Albertha Barrett, Laurie Tis, David Houchins, Paul Alberto, Vijay Vaishnavi, Amy Lederberg, Dee Baldwin, Fred Brooks, Charles Derby, Stephen Dobranski, Skye Hardesty, Pamela Barr, Dan Benardot, Carol Hansen, Mary Ann Romski, June Houston and Dabney White Dixon 

I. November 19, 2007 meeting minutes approved.

II. Internal Grants – Stephen Dobranski reported that he was waiting for the evaluation from the Internal Grants Program Committee and inquired whether there were any year-end monies available. He had no new business to report.

III. Research Center Review – Donald Reitzes and David Houchins briefed the committee regarding CHARA (Center for High Angular Resolution Astronomy) stating the CHARA has no advisory board and that Don would make an amendment which would show how well CHARA has done with funding. Motion to make amendment approved.

IV. Research Infrastructure – Al Baumstark was absent.

V. Research Integrity – Laurie Tis reported that her committee had been asked to look at Intellectual Properties and to determine how Intellectual Properties are dealt with. They are in the process of fine tuning their findings with the help of Cynthia Hall in Legal and will report back to the full Senate Committee.

VI. IRB Advisory – Donald Reitzes reported having a conversation with Robin Morris about developing a user friendly satisfaction survey for IRB usage. Amy Lederberg stated Research already had a survey which addresses three areas an individual(s) has had the best working experience and three areas that one may have had negative experience. This survey is not specific to IRB but would include IRB.

VII. Research Development and Outreach – Amy Lederberg reported on the Undergraduate Research Conference. She said there were not a lot of submissions as of 1/28/08. She reported being in the middle of the Internal Grants Process. Twenty-seven grants have been funded and it appears the process this year is more competitive.

VIII. Science Park – Amy Lederberg reported the construction was moving on schedule. She reported that CollabTech is scheduled to move into the Sun Trust Annex in May 2008. This move is funded by GSURF.

IX. Albertha Barrett reported the university has begun a project to upgrade its financial system to PeopleSoft version 8.9 or 9.0 over the next 18 months. This new financial system will have PeopleSoft Grants module, a proposed development components and users can email using the workflow for approval. This system is web based. The Routing Form will also be on-line and all protocols and approvals will be on this system. No paperwork will be used as the entire process will be electronic. Several universities are utilizing the same system. The go live date is scheduled for July 1, 2009. Presently, the “bugs” are being worked on. There is also scheduled on February 5 at 10am a broad overview session of this new system.

X. Sponsored Programs – Albertha Barrett distributed a summary of sponsored activities which showed the number of proposals submitted, dollar amount of proposals, number of awards received and the dollar amount of the awards for the quarter ending December 31, 2007. The summary also showed the Fiscal YTD. Sponsored program submissions are down 3% but the dollar amount is up 6%.

XI. Robert Curry reported that URSA had hired a BioSafety Officer, Richard Muller. Richard
came from CDC. He stated an IACUC Compliance Specialist has been hired who will start February 11 and that URSA is still looking for an Environmental Program Officer. He said URSA is competing with other universities who are paying higher salaries and that he is now looking for a Chemical Safety Specialist.

XII. Amy Lederberg asked the committee for their opinion regarding individual awards processing. She stated there is no written policy and that one is needed, especially in tracking Fulbright awards. These awards should be routed thru the university along with a proposal approval form. Presently A&S has a policy but an institutional policy is needed. The committee agreed that this is essential and should be university-wide. Amy will draft a policy and forward to Don Reitzes, who will send it to the full committee for approval.

XIII. Strategic Planning – Chuck Derby reported that Strategic Planning had been completed in December. A component related to research was on the areas of focus. The review committee will have two Senate members to sit on the committee for areas of focus. Two names will also be submitted to sit on the review committee from other university committees as well. Don Reitzes will send an email for volunteers on or before March 1. Also, anyone submitting a proposal can’t sit on the review committee.

XIV. Paul Alberto briefly reported on the search for a new university president. The first meeting regarding this search is February 5 in 315 Alumni Hall. Parker Executive Search is working with the university and the BOR in this endeavor. A new president is expected for fall semester.

Next Senate Research Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 18 at 3pm.