Senate Research Committee Meeting
Monday, March 16, 2009

Attendees:  Drs. Alberto, Barr, Bartness, Benardot, Brooks, Curry, Baldwin, Dixon, Dobranski, Gieseker, Henrich, Houchins, Lederberg, Malamud, Manson, McCombie, Morris, Reitzes, Romski, Sevcik, Tai, Vandenberg, Lisa Martin-Hansen, Yang, Beth Jones, Sandra Garber & June Houston

Invited Guest: Joseph Gilbert

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM on March 16, 2009.

- Rose Sevcik, Chair, introduced Joseph Gilbert, Director for Technology and Commercial Development Programs to the committee. He opened his presentation by giving a brief history of commercialization at GSU prior to 2005. In 1988 to 2004 there were 107 disclosures for IP from the research community, about half of those related to the Yamacraw initiative. He stated there had been varying degrees of activities related to these disclosures but with limited resources. He reported that many of the IP generating programs were tied to the GA Research Alliance which supported Tech Commercialization. Current activities involve a fully functioning IP Policy and Committee, major CollabTech expansion, marketing of current IP to existing companies for licensing, and creating university faculty based start-ups with partners. He reported about our relationship with one venture capital derivative called Bloodstone Ventures which assists us with BioTech startups. A second relationship is with QIVLIQ, which is a $400M subsidiary of a $1B minority owned business, which is involved in commercial marketing for all GSURF IPs. Joe presented a flow-chart showing the abbreviated process taking IP enumerating from inventor through the departments and colleges into GSURF, to the IP committee, and into the patenting process and commercialization options. As example, Joe reported that the GSURF master agreement with Bloodstone Ventures has been signed and they have an exclusive option to license 3 GSURF IPs for which they pay GSURF. There is work being completed at this time for Bloodstone to license those 3 IPs from GSURF which would be one of the universities largest licensing deals. Bloodstone would ultimately start a new company in Georgia with those IP. QIVLIQ also has signed a master contract with GSURF and initial marketing has started. All available technologies have been reviewed with 6 high potential technologies identified for special marketing push. Joe reported he has been asked to, and would like to expand QIVLIQ and Bloodstone opportunities to other USG non-research universities if possible. There are other licensed IP deals already in place, like with faculty startup Calorie & Pulse, and joint ventures with the University of Iowa and University of North Carolina. GSU’s IP Committee has been asked to review the 10 year old IP policy and to make recommendations regarding improvements. That will come to the Senate Research Committee. There was also discussion regarding the role of Tech Commercialization activities in the P&T and workload policies of the University which will also be discussed at a future Senate Research Committee meeting.

- Rose asked Robin Morris to report from URSA. Robin stated Dr. Becker has a Presidential Retreat Saturday, March 7 with the Administrative Council. The focus of the retreat was 1) to address how to improve marketing GSU and its reputation, 2) improve the Research University culture of GSU, 3) improve the research infrastructure, which was very high on the agenda, 4) maintain the diversity of the GSU body composed of staff, faculty and students, and 5) address the quantity and quality of space utilization. Robin stated Dr. Becker would like to see more expertise into the colleges/university to assist faculty with administrative duties related to research and improve our research competitiveness.

- Robin reported there was a GAO site visit March 5 related to the security of the NSC building as related to the perimeter security of the BSL4 which went well. We have made significant upgrades to our security of the NSC and the facility.
Robin reported information re the stimulus package. He stated GSU would go after a couple of the short-term construction grants, one for the shell floor of the new science building, the other for renovation of the LRC (which is now almost 30 years old). In addition, there are also approximately 200 Challenge grants at NIH which will bee very competitive. The package will allow supplements and amendments to grants faculty already have and that there are some “flow down” monies to the Governor’s office which has not stated how the money will flow out from there at this time.

Amy reported that there is a new requirement from NSF which requires RCR training and oversight. An institution will have to certify in grant proposals that they have a plan to provide appropriate training and oversight in ethical conduct in their research to undergraduates, graduate students and postdoctoral researchers. This would also address any conflict of interest issues. Robin stated that there is increasing needs for compliance certification in many areas (IRB, IACUC, IBC, HIPPA, RCR, Radiation, etc.) and some universities have hired a Vice President for Compliance to address all these needs (HR, Research, Audit, etc.). The Research Committee agreed to reform their Research Integrity subcommittee to help address this new requirement within the university. Dr. Dixon asked URSA to try to have at least some statement written to meet this requirement for insertion into a coming grant submission soon.

Reports from the Standing Committees
No report.

New Business
No report

Announcements
GSURC was well attended and GSU’s undergraduate students were recognized for their outstanding and quality research.

Amy reported increased funding approved for the collaborative between CDC and GSU for the social and behavioral science research.

Finally, the February 16, 2009 minutes were approved.