Senate Research Committee Meeting
Monday, August 17, 2009
315 AH; 3:00 PM

Attendees: Paul Alberto, Albertha Barrett, Tim Bartness, Dan Benardot, Robert Curry, Florian Enescu, Sandra Garber, Frances McCarty, Olga Jarrett, Bill Kahnweiler, Chris Henrich, Beth Jones, Amy Lederberg, Steve Manson, Robin Morris, Jennifer Patico, Don Reitzes, Mary Ann Romski, Rose Sevcik (Chair), Mary Stuckey, P.C. Tai, Art Vandenberg, Leslie Wolf, Mary Shoffner, Monica Swahn, Paul Gallimore

- April 27, 2009 minutes approved.
- Tim Bartness was recognized as a recipient that received a NIH Merit Award.
- Rose Sevcik asked members to introduce themselves (for benefit of new members).
- Rose asked Chris Henrich to give report on Responsible Conduct of Research Training Policy.
  a) The Scholarship and Research Integrity training policy document had previously be sent via email to the Senate Research Committee. Chris said the subcommittee that worked on the document over the summer consisted of: Chris Henrich, Leslie Wolf, Olga Jarrett and William Kahnweiler. The subcommittee recommended that the plan be in force by October 2009 as required by the new NSF policy. The focus was primarily on student training, particularly graduate students. The subcommittee utilized a template to compose the policy which is a 2-part plan. The policy is discipline specific with an on-line training module and a within area component.
  b) Discussion centered primarily on the participants and which undergraduates should utilize the training. Senate members stated undergraduates who are participating in sponsored research projects should definitely participate; that every graduate student and postdoc should take the CITI portion. Rose suggested that a sentence needed to be added addressing undergraduates. It was also suggested that proposals should state requirements to address the various colleges and units responsibilities. Robin stated any faculty on federal grants should also use the policy.
  c) The policy was not endorsed because of the need for more information and edits, hopefully it will be approved at the September 21 Senate Research meeting. Robin asked for a revised draft copy so he can discuss it at the Deans Group meeting.
- Tim Bartness presented the next item of business which dealt with Post Docs. He stated that Post Docs receiving National Research Service Awards were treated as a non-GSU employee due to the way they were funded; that they received no university health insurance, parking and other benefits normally extended to GSU employees because they were given the funding to do this independently by the award. He stated that the award typically was a stipend for a free-agent. Given that status, such Post Docs are put at a disadvantage by the system even though they should be some of our top recognized fellows. Tim stated that he has had to pay money from his pocket in order to help his Post Docs until some pay issues got fixed. Senate members stated there should be a form with guidelines from the Research Office and HR because there is no clear process. Tim stated there should be an overall post-doc procedure from the University. Amy said that HR supposedly had someone as the point person but there was nothing on the website. Other members felt since this has been discussed previously that maybe the procedure was lost due to the ADP transition. Beth Jones stated should would check with Jean Pearson and HR as to guidelines and the Senate concurred that Beth, Albertha, Amy and Tim should make up a subcommittee to address this issue.
- Don Reitzes asked that the issue of sponsored and graduate student hiring be addressed with HR because it appeared this processed had been lost in the ADP transition. Beth Jones asked Don to give her names of sponsored employees or graduate students he was referring to and she would look at the problems. It
was also suggested that she meet with PIs with grants who had done recent hiring so that the committee could obtain some feedback for how the system was working. Senate members stated they didn’t have clear guidelines and would like to invite HR back to a meeting to discuss this issue.

- Dr. Tai introduced the next item of business which was cost transfers. He stated procedures are cumbersome and that the process should be streamlined. Senate members stated many cost transfers were due to typos. Robin stated that if the reason was always due to typos then someone else should be designated to process them as we can’t keep repeating such problems. He stated there is a general federal message from auditors – “don’t do cost transfers”. He also stated that we had made the process a one page checklist/documentation process with PI signature which he thought was as efficient as can be given the need for specific information. Amy stated that cost-transfer training was available.

- Robin Morris distributed a page which had URSA goals (see attached) that he was going to share with the new Provost, Dr. Palm. He briefly went over the goals and there was discussion about a number of them.

Meeting Adjourned