Senate Research Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 16, 2010
315 Alumni Hall – 3PM

Attendees:  Paul Alberto, Pam Barr, Dan Benardot, Sarah Cook, Robert Curry, Dabney Dixon, Don Edwards, Chris Henrich, Amy Lederberg, Steve Manson, Robin Morris, Mike Metzler, Bill Nelson, Jennifer Patico, Don Reitzes, Mary Ann Romski, Rose Sevcik (Chair), Mary Stuckey, Monica Swahn, P. C. Tai, Winnie Tsang-Kosma, Art Vandenberg, Leslie Wolf,

1. May 2010 minutes Approved.
2. Amy Lederberg provided an update on her May presentation regarding URSA Net and the web-based electronic proposal routing form to be utilized for submitting grant proposals to URSA. She indicated that everyone will review proposals on line and that the process will have to be more planful. It will be piloted within the next month and not rolled out until it is clear that it is working. There will be a fall back system until this is completed worked out.
Amy also indicated that given the feedback from the Research Committee, the issue of how credit for the grant is distributed across investigators will be looked at as a separate issue.
4. VP Robin Morris reported that there was a drop in grants and contracts this year. We were down about 4.5% from 64 million last year to 61 million this year. Total research awards went from 40 million to 35 million. This year there were about 5 grants over 1 million dollars while last year there were 8 such grants.
5. VP Morris reported that the new Petit Science Teaching Lab is operating but “not stable yet”. Traffic flow issues are being addressed in anticipation of the fall semester beginning when 3,500 students should be taking classes in the building. Waffle House will be opening in the building in September. One highlight is the Visualization Lab which is one of 5 or 6 in the nation that has over 2 million pixels. It will host an art exhibit and be used by researchers to examine a range of questions from mapping proteins to visualizing crime statistics. The faculty reported that there are many wonderful aspects of the building when it is operational.
6. Rose Sevcik discussed the formation of two new subcommittees: the Conflict of Interest SubCommittee will address issues related to the new federal requirements about conflict of interest. It will be chaired by Leslie Wolf. The IACUC Advisory SubCommittee (with chair to be named/recruited) will focus on issues raised by faculty related to animal research.
7. Four new business items were raised.
   i. Winnie Tsang-Kosma asked for a list of staff who are research administrators so that she could seek their input and share information with them. Amy Lederberg will provide her with a list of research administrators across the university.
   ii. Steve Manson raised the issue of library journal cancellations. The research committee used to have a representative on the Senate Library Committee. Rose will talk to the chair of the library committee and Steve graciously agreed to represent research interests for library issues.
   iii. MaryAnn Romski raised the issue of university infrastructure to host “research” conferences on campus. The Student Center is basically not available for this use. Other members expressed similar concerns. Robin Morris reported that the university purchased two hotels and that perhaps there is a way to devote some space in one of them for research conferences. Paul Alberto and Pam Barr will keep this in mind related to strategic planning. Paul Alberto, Don Reitzes, and Rose Sevcik will bring this to the Executive Committee for discussion.
   iv. Amy Lederberg indicated that URSA would be unveiling a renovated website. She requested that committee members try it out and advise her about its helpfulness.

8. Meeting Adjourned 4:05pm

Next Meeting: September, 20th 2010 – 1000 UL – 3PM

Respectfully Submitted, MaryAnn Romski