Senate Research Committee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 24, 2011 at 3:00 PM  
315 Dahlberg (formerly Alumni) Hall

Attendees: Paul Alberto, Albertha Barrett, Tim Bartness, Dan Benardot, Laura Burtle, Sarah Cook, John Decker, Dabney Dixon, Florian Enescu, Paul Gallimore, Bill Kahnweiler, Chris Henrich, Beth Jones, Amy Lederberg, Mike Metzler, Robin Morris, Jennifer Patico, Don Reitzes, Mary Ann Romski, Rose Sevcik (Chair), Mary Stuckey, Monica Swahn, Winnie Tsang-Kosma, Art Vandenberg, Carol Winkler, Leslie Wolf

Minutes: June H. Houston

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by the Chair, Rose Sevcik.

(1) Rose asked the committee members to remember Dr. William Nelson’s participation and contribution to the Senate Research Committee. She circulated the program from his memorial reception held at the Rialto on January 20 if they had not had the opportunity to attend. Dr. Nelson was Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences and Professor of Physics and Astronomy. Dr. Nelson died from a heart attack on Sunday, December 19, 2010.

(2) Mary Ann Romski was asked to report on the Ad Hoc committee’s recommendations on their Research Center Review. She reported she had been charged with this assignment from Robin Morris, who had advised that we needed to have this assignment completed regarding GSU Centers as soon as possible due to some of the components of the new strategic plan. She distributed a “working draft” for the committee to review on College-level Research Centers. The draft defined a College-level research center (single or multi-disciplinary unit or college involved) as organized to facilitate research, scholarship, and creative activities. There was discussion that such centers should consist of 2 or more researchers and need to be differentiated from a professor’s research laboratory, even if it’s a large one. There was also some discussion from committee members regarding the reason and commitment of center goals in relationship to university-level strategic goals. Members suggested having a website link housed in URSA listing all GSU Research Centers (college level and university level). Robin discussed the developing model for university-level centers and that the Senate Research Committee had some responsibility to provide peer reviewer of all research centers at the university (whether college or university-level research centers) to help the university maintain reasonable standards and expectations for such entities since they have public faces and reputations that impact the overall university research reputation. Discussion led to the consideration that college level research centers are developed, approved, funded, and monitored by the Deans involved, but that the Senate Research did have a role in their regular review taking the University perspective.

The draft proposal addressed the approval process for new college-level research centers and the review of existing college-level research centers. Committee members agreed that in reviewing existing centers that their recommendations not only include “continue, enhance and close” but also should add “need improvement” to its list to assist in reviewing the center(s). Some members felt a clause should be included in the document suggesting a status called
“probationary and/or provisional” regarding research centers, and that there be a registration process with the VP Research’s office for all existing centers to ensure the current college-level research center’s status. Members also wanted to know the Senate Research Committee’s reporting responsibility in regard to these center reviews. Robin suggested that the Senate Research Committee would provide peer review and recommendations only, and provide their review and recommendations to him, and he would then provide the Provost with the feedback, who could then work with the Deans related to the center review.

The committee agreed that some of the strategic goals should be included in this document and that “productivity” be put in the document rather than over-working “research”. The review should also be done once every five (5) years.

Mary Ann closed by stating she would make edits and report back at the next meeting.

(3) Amy Lederberg reported she was working on models to show how credit, indirect costs, and grant budgets are apportioned in various reports for grants based on collaboration among faculty and units. She stated there is a need to accurately report, sometimes in different ways, what people should be given credit for. The model must also deal with how credit is distributed in some situations to equal 100%. Junior faculty are very much wanting credit recognition on grants they work on with senior PIs. She says there may need to be “double dipping” in some cases as there are issues with interdisciplinary and collaborative units related to departments in giving credit on scholarly writing and grants.

The new electronic grant submission system has the capability to partition credit in various ways, but it is currently not set up to use that functionality which could assist with this process. A model dealing with parameters to denote how credit is distributed especially in collaborative research is needed at the university and she asked whether a subcommittee should work on the model or should she draft a model with the Assoc Deans of Research for the Senate Research Committee to review. Amy to draft model and report back.

(4) Robin Morris stated he had received a six month update on proposals which totaled $29.4M. He said there were 281 awards. He stated that the number of proposals were down totaling $63 versus $66M last year. He reported that at least 8 $1M proposals had been received which was an increase in the number of these larger proposals compared to last year. He congratulated OSP for handling 40 proposals during the winter storm which was due to electronic submissions.

Robin reported that Dr. Li, our newest GRA Eminent Scholar, joined GSU on January 2, 2011. Dr. Li will report to Robin Morris as the University Center director, his tenure home is in Biology. His new Center for Inflammation, Immunity & Infection is located in the Petit Bldg.

Robin also reported that Albertha and Bruce Spratt are revising GSU’s residual policy which will be brought to the Administrative Council for approval.

Next meeting with be Monday, February 21, 315 Dahlberg Hall at 3:00 PM.