

University Senate Research Committee Meeting
23 October 2015
1:00 PM
156 CL

In Attendance: E. Chasens, S. Dytman, K. Erickson L. Holland, G. Huber, L. Matsumura, R. Melhem, P. Smolinski and M. Spring

The minutes of the September 2015 meeting were and approved unanimously.

Action Item: The minutes will be submitted to Lori Molinaro.

G. Huber gave an update on various research activities. The Provost's Conflict of Interest (COI) Policy Review Subcommittee is giving a survey to faculty involved with COI issues and will also be conducting faculty interviews. After this a larger faculty survey is planned. The subcommittee will also be contact other universities (PSU, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, for example) to compare COI policies. They will also conduct a case study benchmarking various COI scenarios comparing Pitt's policy with other universities' policies.

It was suggest that te Committee contact the Chairs of the Provost's Subcommittees on COI, intellectual property (IP) and copyright for updates.

Action Item: P. Smolinski will contact M. Redfern to ask if the Subcommittee Chairs can address the committee.

G. Huber stated that the Institutional Review Board (IRB) Office has had a name change to the Human Research Protection Office. The Office recently hosted an open house called "Ask the IRB" which had approximately 200 attendees. He mentioned that the federal government is soliciting responses for a streamlined IRB process. The deadline for university responses is 7 December. Pitt is planning a response.

Action Item: P. Smolinski will contact G. Huber to request information regarding the Pitt response for discusson at the November meeting.

G. Huber said that time period for researchers to renew their COI module certification has to been changed from 3 years to 4 years to match other research modules.

A question was asked if a reminder can be sent to individuals whose COI certification has expired. It was stated that some Schools do this.

M. Spring stated that the Pitt web site for research needs a better focus to direct researchers to their desired information.

Action Item: These items can be brought up when the Committee meets with the Provost's Subcommittee Chairs.

A discussion was opened on the Committee's mission statement. A copy of the current mission statement was passed out to the committee. M. Spring stated that the Committee has access to the highest level of administration and to an early review of policies. M. Huber stated that this Committee is the key focus group on research. To reflect this, changes were made to the current mission statement. The draft of the new mission statement will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Action Item: P. Smolinski edited the mission statement and a draft is attached in Appendix I.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Patrick Smolinski

Appendix I

Draft – Mission Statement

The Senate Research Committee focuses on research within the University of Pittsburgh, non-funded and funded, including relevant policies and procedures, research operations, research regulation and compliance, support of researchers, and the management of intellectual property, to assist the University Senate in its provision of advice and recommendations about these issues to the senior administration of the university and, also, to faculty, staff and students.

The Senate Research Committee works with and advises all research related offices and departments at the University of Pittsburgh including the Vice-Provost for Research, the Vice-Provost for Research Conduct and Compliance, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Biomedical Research, Health Sciences, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Clinical Research, Health Sciences and the Executive Director of the Health Policy Institute.