

University Senate Research Committee Meeting

(online)

17 December 2021

1:00 PM

In Attendance: J. Cooper, T. Crawford, K. Davitt, M. Hall, D. Harrell, P. Morel, E. Oyler, R Rutenbar, S. Sant, M. Scott, A. Sethi, T. Tenney, B. Yates

The minutes from the November 19 meeting were approved as submitted.

Presentation of the new policy and procedure on Gifts that Sponsor Projects

The draft policy along with comments from TAFC was circulated to the committee prior to the meeting. The committee chairs (J. Cooper Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research, and T Crawford, Vice Chancellor, Corporate and Foundation Relations) presented the policy and the motivation behind it. The aim of the new policy is to provide faculty with a transparent and clear system to follow when approaching donors for gifts or receiving project funds from Foundations and private donors. The policy is not designed to be strategic but rather to provide technical and logistical guidance to faculty.

Questions from the committee

M. Hall raised a question as to whether this policy applies to units who may be asking alumni for some support for a research day or other activity. The answer was that this policy does not apply to such gifts and in general a sponsorship program is set up for such gifts.

M. Scott, and other members of the committee, expressed some confusion as to the scope of this policy and asked which types of grants and awards are covered by this. After some discussion it was agreed that some clarification on the nature of gifts covered by this policy will be delineated in the "scope" section of the policy. T. Crawford noted that for tax purposes Foundations that provide grant funding to PIs label these as "gifts", and this can create confusion for faculty since they tend to consider these as competitive grants.

The committee went through the policy and procedure documents and provided some specific feedback.

ACTION ITEM: The committee will send their comments to P. Morel who will collate and send to T. Tenney during the Winter Break. The committee will review and plan to vote on this policy at the January meeting.

Research Report from Rob Rutenbar

Covid 19 update

The Omicron variant is a concern, but there are no new initiatives to report.

Mission Statement of the Research Committee

The revised mission statement was unanimously approved by the committee

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm. The next Research Committee meeting will be on January 21st at 1 PM via zoom

Minutes submitted by P. Morel and S. Sant