

University Senate Research Committee Meeting

(online)

18 March 2022

1:00 PM

In Attendance: C. Goodwin, M. Holland, R. Kear, M. Levine, P. Morel, R Rutenbar, S. Sant, M. Scott, A. Stephany, B. Yates

The minutes from the February 18 meeting were approved

Senate plenary report

R. Kear reported that 120 people signed up for the senate plenary and that it was well received.

Research Report from Rob Rutenbar

R Rutenbar noted that the mask mandate will be lifted shortly. Masks will no longer be required in general settings but will still be required in campus shuttles. The announcement will be coming next week. M Holland noted that they are looking at special use cases, such as procedures that induce aerosols and community visits. The website will be updated with these new requirements.

R Rutenbar talked about the situation with Ukraine and Russia and in particular with providing help to scientists who are trying to leave the area and find opportunities at Pitt. Some local researchers have been contacted by Ukrainian (and Russian) scientists who wish to come to Pitt. He noted that UCIS is working to create a process for such individuals. He noted that anyone who has a question about this process should contact Ariel Armony (Vice Provost for Global Affairs and Director of University Center for International Studies) at armony@pitt.edu. The UCIS has a process in place that would facilitate the move of scientists to Pitt.

Pitt has few direct research contacts with Russia and such contacts are likely to be complicated

New Policy on Institutional Conflict of Interest

B. Yates stated that the new policy on Institutional COI is complete and that it would be coming to the committee for review at the April meeting. At present it is being reviewed by the Council of Deans. When this is complete the policy will be sent to the committee for review and discussion at the next meeting.

Supplies Purchasing

S. Sant asked for the progress on the bulk purchase of research supplies, M Holland reported that they had received input from several schools and that purchasing was working on obtaining these supplies. He noted that he will follow up with them to see what the progress on this has been.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm. The next Research Committee meeting will be on April 15th at 1 PM via zoom

Minutes submitted by P. Morel and S. Sant