

University Senate Research Committee Meeting

(online)

20 May 2022

1:00 PM

In Attendance: M. Holland, K. Kanthak, R.Kear, M. Levine, P. Morel, R Rutenbar, S. Sant, M. Scott, K. Wood,

The minutes from the April 15 meeting were approved

Research Report from Rob Rutenbar

R. Rutenbar thanked the committee for the passing of the ICOI policy – which was approved by Senate Council at their last meeting. He reported that following discussions with the union work on the conflict of commitment policy had resumed.

R. Rutenbar noted that work was starting on the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) policy. The charter for this policy can be found [here](#). The aim of the policy is to define procedures by which faculty, who are asked to serve in temporary leadership roles in critical federal agencies, can fully participate in IPA activities. The committee is chaired by Rob Cunningham and Lu-in Wang and Melanie Scott is serving on this committee. The experience of serving as an IPA can be very valuable and the aim of the policy is ultimately to increase the participation of Pitt faculty in such activities.

M Holland reported that they are examining whether to relax the restrictions on building access since the COVID levels have reduced. People in some buildings have reported that they would prefer to keep some restrictions as they have felt much safer in the buildings with these restrictions. This is being considered as this is a security issue separate from the pandemic.

M Scott asked who will make this decision and M Holland responded that there is no time line on this and it would probably be the senior leadership team who would make this decision.

S. Sant asked about a recent communication concerning the HR and compensation revamp. R Rutenbar noted that this was part of the overall restructuring of HR and the PittWorx system with the aim of creating meaningful job titles and realistic salary ranges.

P. Morel noted that M Scott had agreed to co-chair the committee next year since P Morel and S Sant are both rotating off. K Wood agreed to be co-chair and a vote will be held on line, since there was no quorum at the meeting.

There was some discussion about moving back to in person meetings as there has been a fall-off in attendance in recent months. R. Rutenbar noted that his office will have a new conference room that could be used in the Cathedral.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm. The next Research Committee meeting will be organized by the new committee co-chairs – probably in September, unless some issues arise in the meantime.

Minutes submitted by P. Morel and S. Sant