**University Senate Research Committee Meeting**
(online)
16 September 2022
1:00 PM

**In Attendance:** E Oyler, M Scott, K Wood, Z Xia, A Stephany, D Reed, D Salcido, S Sant, P Morel, R Kear, M Levine, M Linares, B Yates, A Puniani

**Absent with apologies:** R Rutenbar, M Holland

New members in attendance D Reed, Z Xia and M Linares were welcomed to the committee.

The minutes from the *September 16* meeting were approved virtually in June.

**Discussion of moving to hybrid meeting later in the year**
There was no dissent on moving to hybrid meetings. M Scott will explore available locations for in-person meetings.

**Discussion of recording of the committee meeting for purposes of minutes**
There was no objection to recording meetings for ease of later offline production of minutes. It was noted by M Scott that recording equipment could be turned off when sensitive matters are being discussed. K Wood will record virtual meetings and save the files to her work computer.

**Discussion of committee focus this academic year**
S Sant called for greater coordination between Faculty Affairs and Research when HR makes decisions on faculty titles and job categories; M Scott will invite Faculty Affairs to a Research meeting. Multiple members reported concern about the departure of women faculty from the university, esp. women who are mid-career, well-funded and those "of color". A Task Force for retention of current faculty was created by the SOM (currently limited to SOM); there is a need to expand the Task Force to other departments.

Z Xia noted problems of inefficiency with the hiring process, which impede effective hiring and conduct of research. P Morel and B Yates noted the hiring process requires too many extra-HR channels and bureaucratic bottlenecks, indicating a need for coordination between SOM and HR. M Scott will get an update from HR on where they are with streamlining the process.

There was consensus for 3 main subjects to be discussed at future Research committee meetings: 1) Human Resources (HR), 2) coordination of the Research Committee with Faculty Affairs, and 3) community effort to retain faculty (especially mid-career women with funding and "of color").

**ORP update from Bill Yates on evolving government mandates coupled to funding**
Research committee members voiced concern over the 1) lack of clarity between open access versus public access, and 2) the potential negative impact of a public access requirement on professional societies whose journals are an important source of income.
New funding bill requirements include:

Reporting "discipline for harassment" within 30 days. This could bring new importance to the purpose of Pitt Concern Connection, which is the current source of centrally available up-to-date information for researchers if deans report into it.

Provisions of the CHIPs act signed August 9, 2022 requires Research Security language to be enforced, such as disclosure to NIH of participation in foreign talent recruitment programs under U.S. federally-funded research awards, to prevent loss of our talent or conflicts of commitment by funded investigators. NIH requires institutions to develop proposals for research security training, which Pitt is already actively helping the NIH to design. The goal is more codification requiring investigators to disclose outside agreements.

Implementation of a new Huron-built IACUC protocol management system (when is unknown) will streamline IACUC protocol writing/submissions and facilitate AALAC accreditation. The Champions Group is being formed (M Scott will represent Research) to assist Huron with developing the new IACUC management product. Current systems (MyFunding and My IBC, etc.) are being upgraded for integration by Huron, which is estimated to take 2-3 years to complete. Z Xia asked if something like the new IACUC protocol management system could be in the works for IRB protocols to make the process easier for investigators. B Yates responded that the upgrading of the IRB system is planned and will include more templating of consent forms.

A human tissue/ data sharing policy committee has been formed (2 co-chairs) due to lack of current policy with overarching institutional rules for how to do things like human research subject compensation, net profit distribution and sharing of human data/tissue. There are ethical considerations to the policy, which will have extensive UPMC representation and will likely be affected by upcoming NIH data-sharing requirements.  It is currently in the charter stage with Shared Governance and committee meetings will begin in October (K Wood serving as representative for Research). Research will see the policy before its final approval.

Rebecca Keiser (Chief of Research Security Strategy and Policy at the NSF) will visit Pitt October 10 and has asked for 3 hybrid listening sessions with 1) Research, 2) the University Senate, and 3) the public, including Carnegie Mellon, to get faculty input on how to recover from the China Initiative and concerns about research security measures and training requirements that will be forthcoming in the near-future (exact date is unknown).

The ICOI policy was approved by Chancellor Gallagher and a committee has been formed (chaired by Chris Bonneau and Lisa Parker) with work starting in October.

**New items of discussion:**
Logistical problems to research progress that drive people to find creative, but potentially dangerous work-arounds especially with respect to clinical trials participant payments. Lack of IT cooperation between Pitt and UPMC: such as 1) use of Microsoft products across upmc/Pitt email accounts; 2) limitations in some existing mechanisms for UPMC and Pitt interaction regarding accessing and use of patient-related data for research, and how it's leveraged for clinical discovery versus translational research (R3). B Yates will look for people to talk with Research about this major impediment to

research and will also get an update on where we are with replacing the Vincent tool for payments to research participants, which is recognized as being problematic.

**The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 pm.**

**The next Research Committee meeting:**  October 21 (unless some issues arise in the meantime)

**Minutes submitted by:**  K Wood and M Scott