

University Senate Research Committee Meeting
25 January 2019
1:00 PM
156 CL

In Attendance: C Bonneau, E. Chasens, B. Conrique, A. DiPalma, D. Hargill, G. Huber, P. Humar, R. Melhem, P. Morel, R. Rutenbar, D. Salcido, P. Smolinski, B. Yates

P. Smolinski stated that the minutes of the Committee Meeting of November were sent out to the committee members asking for comments and that no comments were received. Thus, the minutes will stand as posted.

R. Rutenbar stated that a reminder of the required disclosures has been sent to faculty. Also, the Office of Research checklist of required disclosures has been updated.

A. DiPalma mentioned that there will be a briefing by the DOD and FBI on the China Threat on Tuesday January 29 and Committee members are invited to attend. These briefings will also be given at CMU and WVU. This is part of a nationwide effort by the DOD to inform the academic community about potential risks concerning the theft of emerging technologies to foreign countries such as China. Concerns will also be raised about talent programs initiated by China.

Action item: Send an email to committee members inviting them to this meeting.

R. Rutenbar stated China is not the only country that is viewed as a threat, however, it is an economic peer and sends many people to the United States.

R. Melhem asked what the concerns about foreign influence are.

R. Rutenbar stated that research findings have been stolen before publication and China has published and patented stolen technology.

D. Salcone commented that this issue may not be specific to on one country and any steps need to cover all countries.

R. Rutenbar stated that there needs to be enhanced sensitivity in regard to protecting IP from all foreign countries. However, export control of technology may be different for different countries.

D. Salcone asked if health care information falls under export control.

A. DiPalma stated that health care information falls under HIPPA regulations. He added that AAU and APLU have a Science & Security Working group that has provided feedback from institutions of higher education to the government on foreign influence.

The goal of this committee is to lobby Congress concerning language used in regulations on this issue. This allows like-minded universities to speak with one voice to present their views to Congress

R. Rutenbar said that guidance from funding agencies on disclosures on talent programs is not clear and is being discussed.

R. Rutenbar stated the revision of the IP policy is almost at the starting point. It has been delayed pending the revision of the "Policies of Policies". The "Policies of Policies" document is on the CFO website and will be migrated to the new Office of Policy Management website. A committee on the new IP policy is being put in place and will begin work on a new policy shortly.

P. Morel asked if there is a Senior Vice Chancellor for Research website.

R. Rutenbar stated that there is no website at this time but one is forthcoming.

R. Rutebar said that his office is currently working on items related to shared Research Cores with UPMC.

D. Salcido stated the Pitt researchers embedded in UPMC environments must follow UPMC requirements.

G. Huber mentioned there has been an update to the Common Rule that covers the Protection of Human Subjects in research. Some critical provisions have recently become active. These include the requirement for a single IRB to cover cooperative research in the US, new consent rules concerning for the use of biospecimens and the establishment of new exempt categories of human subject research. The IRB will be formulating new rules for consent and clarification of exempt research.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.

The next meeting will be February 22, 2019 in CL 156

Minutes submitted by P. Smolinski and P. Morel.