

University Senate Research Committee Meeting
4 October 2017
1:00 PM
156 CL

In Attendance: E. Chasens, M. Goodhart, K. Fike G. Huber, K. Kohli, R. Melhem, P. Morel, D. Salcido, S. Sant, P. Smolinski, N. Spice, M. Spring, L. Terhorst J. Woodward.

People attending the meeting introduced themselves.

In a discussion of community-based research, it was suggested that a subcommittee be formed to determine the needs of people working in this area. Ideas could range from what infrastructure the administration could provide to aid individuals engaging in community-based research to increasing the visibility and appreciation of such research. An Idea Exchange meeting will be held on October 26, from 2-5. The Idea Exchange is hosted by an ad-hoc group that is focused on community-based research at the University. M. Goodhart stated he will approach this group to coordinate a working committee to determine the needs of people working in the area of community-based research. M. Goodhart also stated that the Provost had sent out a directive to the Deans in her area that they should consider community engagement when considering the promotion of faculty, so this issue has to some extent been addressed.

Action Item: M. Goodhart will ask the community-research group to prepare a document outlining the needs of these researchers for presentation at the Research Committee in December or January.

J. Woodward reported on the status of various university policies that are being developed. The language of the conflict of interest (COI) policy is being reviewed by the SVC for research and legal counsel. The COI policy will be finalized before the intellectual property (IP) policy is completed. The visitor's policy will then be developed since it will be based on the IP policy. The plan will be to bring these before the committee for comment before public release. J. Woodward stated that if anyone has a problem with bringing a visitor to Pitt they should contact Alan DiPalma.

G. Huber mentioned that there will be changes to the Common Rule that will be effective January 2018. He also stated that the HRPO ran an education session on October 3, 2017 to inform the community about upcoming changes. This will be a policy change and no government rules or regulations changes have yet been proposed. He suggested that the committee invite Dr. Richard Guido or Ms. Jean Barone to discuss the common rule changes. In addition, the NIH has made changes in what is considered a clinical trial and these now include such things as behavioral studies and some pilot or feasibility studies. This is creating some confusion and G. Huber stated that his office can help with these issues.

Action Item: Dr. Guido and Jean Barone will be contacted about attending a meeting.

Action Item: G. Huber will inform the committee about upcoming education sessions on the Common Rule changes

It was mentioned that R. Melhem had previous questions regarding effort reporting. It was noted that effort reporting is a post-award task and falls under the responsibility of the Office of Management and Budget. Bev Zern is running an information session for faculty on October 17, 2017. The Research Committee may wish to invite Beverly Zern and Mark Stofko of research accounting to discuss post-award management.

P. Smolinski stated that M. Madison informed him that there is a group developing a University policy on data. J. Woodward added that the Data Commons Group is being headed by Liz Lyons and Michael Becich. In the Group, there is a subcommittee for research data policy and Liz Lyons, Michael Madison, and Jennifer Woodward are members of the subcommittee.

P. Smolinski brought up that he was sent an email stating that Box is HIPAA compliant and asked if patient data could be stored on Box. M. Spring stated that Box may not meet University IRB standards. After the meeting, G. Huber's office sent the following clarification: "Box provides robust security for the data you store. However, due to federal, state, and local laws and University policies and standards, it should not be used to store, collect, or share certain types of regulated and sensitive data. This includes data regulated by HIPAA and GLB. Please keep in mind that you are responsible for safeguarding University of Pittsburgh data stored on the computers, devices, and online services you use." Thus, it is recommended that sensitive patient data should not be stored in Box.

G. Huber stated that the University had recently undergone an investigation by the NIH and Department of Agriculture on the treatment of animals and was deemed to be compliant with all regulations. This was following allegations by a member of PETA who was embedded in DLAR. He stated that the University takes the ethical treatment of animals seriously and complies with all applicable regulations. M. Spring stated that in his experience the University is doing the upmost to treat animals in a humane way.

S. Sant asked if there is any School or University automated process in which undergraduate and graduate students are given chemical hygiene or blood-borne pathogen training. There was general agreement that there was no automated process for safety training and it is up to the advisor to monitor training.

J. Woodward stated that the new electronic grant system (Peris) will be phased in over the next 18 months. The system will include an electronic grant portal and a PI dashboard. Phase 1 for electronic grant proposals is undergoing testing and is expected to be rolled out in January 2018. Phase 2, involving grant activation and reporting and Phase 3, the PI dashboard, are on schedule. This software will replace the use of the ASSIST program that many people use for NIH grants.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Patrick Smolinski and Penny Morel