

University Senate Research Committee Meeting
9 September 2016
1:00 PM
6th Fl. Conf. Rm. CL

In Attendance: K. Barlow, E. Chasens, R. Melhem, P. Morel, P. Smolinski, L. Terhost, M. Spring, J. Woodward and F. Wilson

Self-introductions were given by the people in attendance.

It was noted that the meetings for this academic year will be the first Friday of each month at 1 p.m. in rm. 156 of CL.

Jennifer Woodward gave an overview of research activities. A website with a draft of the non-student visitor agreement has been set up (<http://visitor.pitt.edu/>) Visitor agreements are under Allen DiPalma in the Office of Export Control. The committee was given a copy of an email that will be sent to Pat and Penny by Mark Redfern in the next few days. This requests feedback from the research committee. The committee will be receiving this email very shortly and comments on the website should be sent to visitor@pitt.edu or to Mark Redfern directly within the 10 days of receipt of the email. M. Spring stated a term should be found for casual non-student visitors.

Action item: The committee should provide feedback to Mark Redfern on the Visitor policy and agreements

J. Woodward stated a draft of the intellectual property/copyright policy has been given to the Provost and Chancellor for review and after that will be available for faculty review. It is anticipated that the committee may receive this by the next meeting. The COI policy is not yet complete and this has taken longer than expected to draft because of the need to change the format such that policy and procedure are separated into discreet documents. This will make the policy much clearer. It was stated that the new policy will be less restrictive than the previous COI policy.

J Woodward stated that Mark Redfern had taken the committee's concerns about support for community based research to the Chancellor's office. He reported that Kathy Humphrey (Senior Vice Chancellor, Chief of Staff) is initiating the development of Community Engagement Centers as part of the new strategic plan. P. Morel reminded the committee that last term there was a discussion in the committee about community-based research and the main issues raised were the need for University services for developing interactions with community groups and a lack of recognition to community based research. Concern was raised that these Community Engagement Centers, introduced as part of the University's strategic plan, may not be research based centers. F. Wilson stated there is a need to distinguish between research and community outreach. M. Spring said there is a need for University support making connections with appropriate communities. The committee might want to consider inviting Kathy Humphrey to come and talk about the community-based centers that are being set up.

Action item: Invite Kathy Humphrey to an upcoming meeting to discuss community based-research.

J. Woodward said the Office of Research continues efforts to streamline and reduce procedures. The Office of Research has received permission to develop an electronic system for grants. There will be three aspects to the system. The first will be a grant system for electronic processing of grant material. The second aspect will be a system to integrate the Office of Research grant information with post award accounting and compliance activities such as COI, IRB, DLAR, IACUC, etc. The third activity will be to develop a principal investigator (PI) dashboard that PIs can use to track award information. This is expected to be a 18 month to 2 year process.

In response to a request by Kelly Cole, P. Morel asked for follow on the announcement by the Chancellor that a new position of Senior Vice Chancellor (SVC) for Research was being created.

F. Wilson stated that the forming of a search committee for the position has been announced and there have been meetings with the Chancellor and Provost. The Senate was asked to appoint three members to a search committee and there have been extensive discussions between the Senate executive committee, the Chancellor and Provost on the scope of this new position. It is expected that the Office of Research and RCCO will report directly to the new SVC. The Provost and SVC of Health Sciences will remain the top academic officers. It is planned for the search committee to have open meetings with faculty and staff to answer any questions concerning this position and to receive input on the roles that SVC for Research should or should not have. It was generally suggested that Provost Beeson be invited to an upcoming meeting to discuss the new position. Committee members who are interested should attend the open meetings on this new SVC position in order to give their opinion and ask questions.

Action item: Invite Provost Beeson to discuss the position of Vice-Chancellor for Research.

Action item: Forward information about the open meetings on the SVC for Research position to committee members and other interested parties

P. Smolinski brought up the letter to the Committee from the Staff Association Council (SAC) requesting the addition of a non-voting (SAC) representative.

F. Wilson stated the purpose of this addition representative is to allow a better transition between SAC representatives on the Committee. The Committee opinion was that would be beneficial.

Action Item: Contact SAC regarding an additional non-voting representative at the Committee meetings.

P. Smolinski brought up the previously discussed item of inviting Prof. Michael Madison to a future meeting to discuss IP and copyright issues. The general sentiments were that Prof. Madison could provide additional information on these issues.

Action Item: Contact M. Madison to see if he can attend a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Patrick Smolinski and Penny Morel