

M E E T I N G M I N U T E S
November 14, 2007

Present: Ivan Avrutsky, Tamara Bray, Domenico Gatti, Guangzhao Mao, Tej Mattoo, Boris Mordukhovich, Harley Tse (Chair), Eileen Trzcinski, Olivia Washington, Antoinette Wozniak, Robert Arking, Judith Whittum-Hudson.

Absent with notice: Marcus Dickson, Bo Shen.

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:38 pm. The minutes for the meeting of October 15, 2007 were approved unanimously.
2. Human Investigation Committee (HIC)
The Chair had received a response from Dr. Dorothy Nelson regarding HIC protocol issues previously raised by faculty of the College of Education. Dr. Nelson pointed out that the HIC protocol committee was re-designing a new form more appropriate for use by investigators and students in the social sciences. Portions of the response email were forwarded to three faculty members of the College of Education as well as members of the Research Committee. At this point, the Research Committee would leave it up to the HIC to work out the problems.
3. University-wide survey of faculty to identify problems related to research
In the October meeting, the Committee decided to conduct a survey of University faculty to identify problems faculty might encounter when conducting research at Wayne State. A subcommittee consisted of Ivan Avrutsky, Olivia Washington and Judy Whittum-Hudson was formed to prepare a short questionnaire which would be distributed to faculty via the internet. Data collected would be formulated into suggestions and policy changes to be submitted to the appropriate administrative offices. Members pointed out a number of areas of concern such as SPA functions, dollar limits on use of procurement cards and dollar limits on book purchases by faculty. Committee members were encouraged to email the subcommittee with other suggestions. The subcommittee would submit a draft for discussion in the next meeting.
4. Research Salary Incentive Program
One member suggested that the Committee should be proactive in making recommendations to the Provost and to the OVPR regarding criteria to evaluate the success of the Research Salary Incentive Plan. Another member pointed out that the Research Salary Incentive Program was also designed to encourage faculty to write more salary money into their grants. This could be one of the criteria for evaluation. It was also brought up that one of the initial concerns about the program was that, in some grant situations, it might take away salary money from graduate students. Since each college might administer the program in different fashions, it was recommended that someone from the OVPR should be invited to explain the program to the Committee in the next meeting. It was also suggested that the Committee should request to put this issue on the agenda of the next Academic Senate meeting. The Chair would make the request to the Senate President.

5. New Business

One member pointed out that the University Strategic Plan was ready to be submitted to the Board of Governors. In the Strategic Plan, there were sections concerning research that the Committee should take a look at. The Chair would request a copy of those sections from the Office of the Vice President for Research and pass it on to Committee members.

6. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Harley Tse
Chair, Research Committee

Approved at the Research Committee meeting of February 21, 2008