

Wayne State University
Academic Senate
Research Committee Minutes
February 14, 2012

Present: Cinabro, Avrutsky, Benkert, Ferreira, Huttemann, Mordukhovich, Mueller, Oupicky, Tisdale, Tse, Brock, Fazal

Absent with Notice: Cacace, Golebiowska, Lanza, MacArthur, Stemmler, Thomas, Wildman, Kessel, Dunbar, Kessel

Guests: Phil Cunningham, AVP for Research Compliance, Tom Perez, Director of the Office of Environmental Safety and Health (OES+H)

We approved the minutes from our January meeting.

On the subject of the research misconduct procedure. The administrative side is getting advice from lawyers to not talk about this until the pending legal action is complete. In private conversations with the committee chair they have agreed that there are aspects of the procedure that they too would like see changed. It is non-trivial to make changes since they have to be approved by the Board of Governors, and it would be best to do this only once. We agreed to continue to wait on this, but we will push forward even with only our own suggested changes before the end of the school year.

There used to be a research consultant on the staff of C&IT. The position was essentially cut in the latest round of budget cuts. This person was especially valuable to researchers in the College of Education and the Department of Psychology. The VP for Research is working to replace the position. Essentially the funding was cut in half and the VP is passing the hat to make up the funding. The hope is that a person will be in place by next fall.

Next we had a talk from Phil and Tom. An internal audit from last year revealed severe problems with how controlled substances were being used in research. Not only is this a risk to research programs, but also it is illegal. A review of the requirements and regulations was done, and a new plan, that is compliant, is being put in place quickly as the old plan was not compliant. There were failures in security, record keeping, and in deciding who is an allowed user. The new plan is a close copy of the one at Ohio State University, and inspiration was also drawn from the plans at Michigan State, and Michigan. The plan addressed 1) Licensing, 2) Ordering, 3) Storage, 4) Record Keeping, and 5) Disposal.

Licensing is done via the State of Michigan. Users have to either have a license, or be in the process of applying for one. The process can be as short as 8 weeks or as long as 2 years. It is not the best of ideas to get the needed supplies from some one else, as this weakens the trail of responsibility. There is also a DEA registration process. Assistants, who often actually work with the drugs, do not have to be Licensed, but the License

holder is responsible. Note that Phil and company are willing to be flexible. They will let the common practice of a Department Chair being the only license holder from which PI's get their supplies continue, as long as everyone involved is clear about who will be held responsible when something goes wrong.

PI's who have seen the plan expressed being uncomfortable about asking about employees drug use and criminal records which is required for those who work with controlled substances. An anonymous web based form will be available for employees to certify.

Orders must be trackable. This means that P-cards cannot be used to order controlled substances. This will necessarily cause some delay, but they are working to set up multiple approvers so that the delays will be minimized.

The substances have to be stored under lock and key, and the keys have to not be publicly accessible.

There are required logs to keep track of use the substances. This is not new, but was not strictly enforced. It will be and, unfortunately, is particularly annoying.

Unused controlled substances should be returned rather than thrown away. All suppliers are meant to be able to do this. If not then QEH+S can help properly take care of unused controlled substances.

The new policy went into effect yesterday. Training and review is, unfortunately, still in progress. The University wants to help to make sure there are no compliance problems and that no one finds them selves unable to conduct their research. Please contact Phil or the DLAR for help. In fact for one time uses of controlled substances, rather than continual use, it does not make sense for researchers to go through all the bother of licensing, etc. In this case DLAR can accommodate one time service requests.

While the new policy has been put into effect hastily, by necessity, Phil is committed to being sure that research not be disrupted. Researchers should contact him if there are problems.