

Wayne State University  
Academic Senate  
Research Committee Minutes  
April 17, 2012

Present: Cinabro, Avrutsky, Benkert, Ferreira, Golebiowska, Huttemann, Mordukhovich, Stemmler, Thomas, Tisdale, Dunbar, Brock, Fazal

Absent with Notice: MacArthur, Mueller, Oupicky, Tse, Wildman, Kessel

Guests: Deborah Charbonneau and James Van Loon

We approved the minutes from our March meeting. The chair noted that there has been no news on the review of SPA being done by the Huron Group.

Deborah and Jim gave us a presentation on the new NSF requirement that proposals include a two-page data management plan. They gave us five things NSF PI's need to know:

- 1) The plan is two pages which is a supplement to the main proposal. Proposals without plans are rejected. It is to cover "dissemination and sharing" of research results.
- 2) PI's are responsible for the plan for any sort of proposal.
- 3) Research data is "the recorded factual material commonly accepted in scientific community as necessary to validate research findings."
- 4) The plan should include expected data, data format, access practices and policies, policies for re-use and re-distribution, and archiving of data.
- 5) Each NSF unit has unique requirements and contents for their data management plans.

They provided a template and example. There was a short discussion where those who had recently submitted NSF proposals found that a minimal data management plan, basically the results of the research must be somehow publicly accessible. It is not good enough to simply publish the results in a journal. Library is making a help page and we suggested links to public archives (Digital Commons, The Cornell Library hosted archive server, etc.) and that a link to the help page should appear on all the Library subject pages, as that is where PI's would most likely find it. Their presentation and their summary of the Five Things is attached.

An off topic discussion started on adding new journals. Stephanie brought up a bad experience, while David C. brought up a good experience. The Library is constrained by 1) small to non-existent acquisitions budget. Investment in the library has suffered over the past few years, and researchers are starting to notice. 2) Evil publishers. Their common practice is to bundle access to journals and restrict start times making it prohibitively expensive to add a single journal in the middle of the school year. A suggestion is that if a new researcher is coming who is pushing into a new area, they

should talk to the library contact before the Fall giving the library time to get access to the crucial journals.

Maria brought to David C's attention the problems the School of Education is having getting approval from the HIC for research studies. Bringing these complaint to Phil Cunningham David was told that he was coming to a meeting of the Faculty Affairs committee which took place last. David and Karen Feathers, from Education and having some terrible problems lately, went to the meeting. Basically last year the FDA sent Wayne State a warning letter about its HIC. This is the final step before shutting down human related research at an institution. One of the problems this letter pointed out that too many HIC requests at Wayne State were being labeled "exempt" or "expedited". The predictable response is that very few new proposals being granted "exempt" or "expedited" and the approval process has gotten slow and proposals are being heavily scrutinized. Phil, new as AVP for Research Compliance, is also appalled at the wasteful, paper driven current practice. The FDA review earlier this year went well, but Phil would like to put in place an electronic system that will take more than one year to implement.

In the mean time research at the School of Education and School of Nursing is being harmed. Karen has had some promising students drop out of higher degree programs due to the pain involved in getting research proposals approved. She is especially dismayed that multi-institutional projects involving the UofM and MSU along with Wayne State are quickly approved elsewhere, but are rejected or languish in the approval process at Wayne State. Nursing also complained how long approval takes, the poor customer service, the problem of forms changing during the course of the process leading to unnecessary work in resubmitting, and poor performance when compared with peer institutions. Ewa also noted that this is not a new story. Past attempts to make the process work better has not shown much results.

David C. will bring the matter to the attention of the VP for Research and urged committee members to bring their complaints to other listeners, Deans and Deans of Research. He also thought that in the fall the HIC should appear before the Research Committee to keep the pressure on to change a situation that seems to be getting worse.

We discussed the latest version of a research incentive plan. A committee, chaired by Joe with David C. as a member, has been working on a proposal that would return to the PI the tuition costs for any graduate student that was supported on an external grant. There is general agreement that this would be a very good thing. The cost would be covered by eliminating the current research enhancement program, and again there remains strong support for this suggestion. Joe also wants to get some buy in to this program from the Deans. Since most of the externally supported graduate students are in CLAS this might be a problem since the Dean has been pleading poverty for some time. Nevertheless David C. strongly encouraged this as Deans should be giving more than lip service to Incentivizing research. A fall back, if there was not enough money, would be to not return the entire tuition cost, but some fraction.

Again there remains strong support for such a program. Joe hopes to start this program in the Fall.

Finally David C. mentioned that he is not planning to return as chair of the Research Committee. He has taken on more research activities in the last few months, including a collaboration in Japan, and finds that he does not have the time to devote to the committee that it deserves. Volunteers to do it next year were not forthcoming.