

Academic Senate Research Committee Meeting
May 15, 2013

Present: D. Kessel, Chair, R. Commissaris, Judith Fry-McComish, Maik Huttemann, Jason Mateika, Harley Tse, Stephanie Brock, AAUP-AFT liaison.

Absent with notice: Abhijit Biswas, Maria Ferreira, Robert Reynolds

Absent: Lisa Alexander, David Cinabro, Nabanita Datta, Li Hsieh, Patrick Mueller, Alexey Petrov, Senthil Sundaram, Derek Wildman, Joseph Dunbar, Administration liaison, Lexie McGillis, Student Senate liaison

Guest: Gloria Heppner, Associate Vice President for Research

On May 15, Gloria Heppner, Associate VP for Research, reported on the status of the assorted cores associated with the University. There are many cores, ranging from Clinical Trials and Epidemiology to Biostatistics, Imaging and X-Ray crystallography. An important issue in proper usage relates to 'compliance': if any users pay for core services with Federal funds, the cores must follow certain rules. These include a rule that the charges must be the same for all users and that the cores be open to everyone. Since use of Federal funds is almost universal, compliance becomes a major issue.

The Huron Group report recommended that a staff member be hired to insure compliance and other financial management issues are being dealt with appropriately, at an annual cost of \$615,000. This included support for salaries, service contracts and some new equipment. The University ultimately decided that \$47,000/year could be provided for a financial manager, so only the most critical elements of support will be provided.

The OVPR has a Core Committee that meets monthly and considers requests for new cores and equipment, along with management issues. These meetings are open to any interested faculty members.

At this point, no core is self-sustaining: all require some additional support to be functional. This can come from the Karmanos Cancer Center, the OVPR or other sources. Cores have advisory groups and are periodically evaluated. There are additional cores that would be useful, but cannot be supported at this time, e.g., a Transgenic Animal facility. It was also noted that we have a 10-year contract to support (\$300,000/year) a core at the Argonne National Labs that is not being used. Attempts are being made to end this contract.