

MEETING MINUTES
September 30, 2008

Present: Ivan Avrutsky, Tamara Bray, David Cinabro, Gina Deblase, T.R. Reddy, Bo Shen, Harley Tse (Chair), Joseph Dunbar, Judith Whittum-Hudson

Absent with notice: Marcus Dickson, Tej Mattoo, Michael McIntyre, Prahlad Parajuli, Olivia Washington, Antoinette Wozniak,

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm.

2. Future meetings

Based on the scheduling information provided by members, it was decided that future monthly meetings would be held on the THIRD THURSDAY of each month from 2 to 3 pm in room 1270 FAB. Members would receive a reminder a day before the meeting.

3. Analysis of University-wide research survey

Data from the survey were sent to members by email before the meeting. It appeared that there was general consensus among faculty on many issues related to research. This information would be summarized by the same subcommittee which designed the survey questionnaire. The subcommittee consisted of Ivan Avrutsky (Chair), Tamara Bray, Olivia Washington and Judith Whittum-Hudson. A report was to be assembled by the subcommittee.

4. Wayne's national research ranking

The Chair had prepared a draft providing background and rationale for the issue under study. A list of recommendations as a result of discussion by last year's Research Committee was also distributed. This list was opened to additions and revisions by the current Committee. There were five broad categories: Culture Change, Core Services Upgrade, Research Support and Incentives, Communication and Building Our Research Foundation.

On the subject of Culture Change, one suggestion was to raise the visibility of outstanding researchers at Wayne. It was recommended that the Board of Governors should establish an award for recognition of outstanding researchers in much the same way the BOG recognized outstanding teachers. There should be scheduled public lectures given by the honorees. Some members pointed out that BOG did have such awards. Others had not heard of it. If it had, it was not well publicized. Along this line, some believed that the BOG itself should be educated about the fundamentals of research, perhaps by touring laboratories and talking to researchers. Another suggestion to raise visibility of Wayne was to enhance hosting of national symposiums on campus. At this time, it seemed that there was a lack of infrastructure to assist hosting of such events. The issues of SPA and grant management were also discussed. It was pointed out that the OVPR had been very active in these areas and had reorganized SPA and established online research account accessibility (nicknamed The Dashboard). These mechanisms would be available to faculty in the near future.

On the subject of Core Service Upgrade, the Chair requested additions to the list of core services to include engineering and the humanities. Suggestions included a magnetic nuclear resonance/mass spectrography (MNR/MS) core, an instrument shop to support instrument

fabrication, upgrade and repair and a mechanism for equipment sharing. It was also pointed out that renovation and facility modification at Wayne State were very inefficient and it took several months to complete a job. Facility maintenance was a problem.

5. New Business

No new business.

6. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Harley Tse
Chair, Research Committee

As approved at the Research Committee meeting of October 16, 2008