

Wayne State Academic Senate Research Committee Summary of Activity 2011/2012

May 7, 2012

Active Members: David Cinabro, Chair; Ivan Avrutsky; Ramona Benkert; Anthony Cacace; Maria Ferreira; Ewa Golebiowska; Maik Huttemann; Rodger MacArthur; Boris Morukhovich; Patrick Mueller; David Oupicky; Timothy Stemmler; Ronald Thomas; Ellen Tisdale; Harley Tse; Derek Wildman; Joseph Dunbar, Admin Rep; David Kessel, Policy Rep; Stephanie Brock, AAUP Rep; Aysha Frazal, Student Rep.

- We met seven times.
- We spoke with Gail Ryan and Marlene Erno of SPA about the deficiencies of the Effort Reporting system, desired improvements in the beloved Research Dashboard, grant close out procedures, and inconsistencies in the application of grant rules.
- We spoke with Julie O'Connor, Matt Lockwood, and Nick Denardis, OVPR and Development, on research communication. They reviewed the numerous methods they use, noted how short of personnel they were and we noted problems with internal communications.
- Charlie Parrish alerted us to AAUP unhappiness with the Research Misconduct procedures. This proves to be a very difficult problem with on-going litigation stymieing our attempts to get feedback from administration. While there is general agreement that some aspects of the current policy could and should be improved there is no ability to take united action under the cloud of the current litigation. The committee felt that the current policy is not so broken that trying to change it on our own would be a valuable effort; making changes would require approval by the Board of Governors. We did work up a set of discussion points that we would like to have with the administration when they are able to engage.
- We did consider reviewing the budget of the Office of the Vice President for Research. After some initial feedback from the VP we decided to not do this as the Huron Group was also being charged to review OVPR and we thought a better plan was to give them input and review their findings given our limited ability to do much of anything and

our desire to not force the VP and her staff to duplicate effort. This may have been an error. See below.

- We had a brief discussion about the organization of the Graduate School. We concluded that it was not broken and did not need fixing.
- We spoke with Phil Cunningham and Tom Perez, OVPR, about changes in policy regarding the research use of controlled substances. Basically this was done in haste due to severe problems uncovered in an internal audit. The new policy follows the rules and much effort is being and will be made to be sure that no research activities are disrupted.
- We spoke with Jennifer Hubert and Grace Cashman of the Huron group. It turns out that the Huron Group is reviewing SPA and the research cores rather than OVPR as a whole. We gave them some opinions about what needs to be looked at and look forward to their report.
- We met with Deborah Charbonneau and James Van Loon of Libraries on the new NSF requirement for a Data Management Plan as part of every proposal. We also had an off topic discussion about journals at the Library.
- The Chair attended a meeting of the Faculty Affairs Committee and reported back on the growing damage being done by the long and onerous approval process by the Human Investigation Committee. While there are reasons for this, an FDA warning, the problems have been around for a long time. The Research Committee should take this up again in the Fall and members should complain to Chairs, Associate Deans, and Deans.
- We gave encouragement to Joe Dunbar, OVPR, who is chairing a Research Incentive committee which is suggesting that PI's get returned tuition for externally supported graduate students. Joe is working to get some support from Deans and hopes to have the program in place by the Fall. The money will come by eliminating the current Research Enhancement program.
- The current committee chair, David Cinabro, is not planning to continue next year. Volunteers are welcome.