

# WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

## FINAL REPORT OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE 2016-2017

This year the Research Committee met five times. The meetings were attended by several guests

1. Stephen M. Lanier, Vice President for Research
2. Terrence Monks, Assistant VP for Research
3. Linda Hazlett, School of Medicine Vice Dean for Research
4. Keith Whitfield, Provost

The Committee addressed the following issues:

1. **Mandate and responsibilities of the Research Committee.** Following the presentation of an excerpt from the Senate Bylaws describing the mandate and areas of responsibility of the committee, the members discussed a role the committee plays in the University's research activities.

It was pointed out during the discussion that while research grants and other monetary means of research support are important indicators of research activities, they are by no means the only indicators. The issue of an apparent lack of the "institutional memory" related to research governance was mentioned. The committee agreed on taking a more aggressive stance of the discussion of the research governance at the University.

2. **Status of WSU research enterprise.** Several topics were discussed following a presentation of VP for Research Stephen Lanier: research indicators, research centers, core facilities, cluster hires and center grants.

Compared to FY15, external funding for FY16 is up, with NIH funding held steady, slight decline in NSF funding and increase in state funding. State funding includes funds obtained for clinical trials done at Carmanos Inst, as well as the rest of the Medical School, which were accounted for differently in FY16. Invention disclosures are slightly down, from 69 in FY15 to 65 in FY16, but licensing is up rather significantly, from \$0.7M in FY15 to \$1.1M in FY16.

There are several university-wide research Centers (aka Type II Research Centers), each has its own charter and funding sources. For the major ones, the funding is split approximately in half in between SOM and OVPR. Dr. Lanier described the Centers as vehicles for generation of

“programmatic mission,” which should lead to larger initiatives in the thematic area. He also stated that the goal is to have 30% of the center-associated faculty salaries covered by the outside research grants (now it is lower). Dr. Lanier also discussed research cores. He pointed out that following the review three of the cores were closed to improve effectiveness and stated that cores are subsidized by the University at the level of \$1.2-1.3M/year.

3. **Status of research activities at the School of Medicine:** Several topics were discussed following a presentation by the School of Medicine Vice Dean for Research Linda Hazlett: ICR, clinical research, research funding, endowed chairs, etc.

Among the important topics discussed in Dr. Hazlett’s presentation was the new allocation for the indirect costs that applies to all new awards and competing renewals with an award date after October 1, 2015,

Investigators	5%
Department	8%
School/College	5%
Central Pool	49%
Res. Stim.	24%
Res. Facilities	9%

She further emphasized that while, on average, US medical schools are subsidized (or invested) \$0.53 cents for each dollar received from the NIH and other external funds, Wayne State Medical School receives no such subsidies, which makes its competition with other medical schools more difficult. On funding dynamics, WSU performs similar to its peers.

4. **Provost's perspective on research.** An open-question session with Provost Keith Whitfield concentrated on issues with IRB, status of endowed chairs and distinguished professorships, and general hiring dynamics.

The University has significantly fewer endowed professorships than its peers., altogether about 20. This is in part due to the fact that securing private funding was not among the main goals of development campaigns with donors opting for supporting of scholarships. This will be changed in the future. It was discussed that one of the goals of faculty hiring in the next five years would be increasing diversity of WSU faculty. Provost emphasized that cross-collaboration among faculty is the future at WSU and discussed some new initiatives, such as translational neuroscience initiative. He then discussed issues associated with iBio faculty hires, including difficulties of cross-college appointments. This is important, as there are no special “iBio faculty lines”, all faculty are housed in SOM and different colleges that have different tenure systems.

The main problem with IRB is seen to be related to extremely slow review/approval time for the proposals. It was pointed out that the office is likely

understaffed and is still employing a paper-based system. Provost pointed out that many problems would be solved by switching to an electronic proposal handling system and by instituting some structural changes on the way IRB works, such as introduction of "point-persons" who will be available for the faculty.

**5. Status of iBio and relevant hires.** Status of iBio hires were discussed by VP for Research Stephen Lanier.

The Chair would like to thank the Research Committee members for their work and participation this year:

Mary Anderson  
Ivan Avrutsky  
Cathryn Bock  
Tamara Bray  
Susan Davis  
Susan Eggly  
Andrew Fibley  
David Kessel  
Karen MacDonnel  
Jason Mateika  
Alexey Petrov (Chair)  
Izabela Podgorski  
Robert Reynolds  
Amanuel Tekleab  
Ronald Thomas  
Sokol Todi  
Xin Wu  
Carmen Giugescu (G.C. Liaison)  
Nourhan Hamadi (SS Liaison)  
David Kessel (P.C. Liaison)  
Deborah Kingery (UPTF Liaison)  
Avraham Raz (AAUP-AFT Liaison)

Sincerely yours,



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Alexey A Petrov,  
Chair, Academic Senate Research Committee