

University Senate Research Committee (USRC)
Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2019

Attending: Jeffrey Edwards (Philosophy), Iris Fineberg: Chair (School of Social Welfare), Chris Kretz (Library), Anne McElroy (SoMAS), Jason Trelewicz (Material Science), Tzu-Chieh Wei (Physics and Astronomy), Xiaoqing Zhang (Graduate Student Representative - SHTM)

Invited guest: Richard Reeder (Vice President of Research)

(1) Guest: Richard Reeder, Vice President of Research

Research Expenditures - The VPR's charge is to increase research expenditures, and the university is up about 5% from last year. The number of research proposals this past year flattened out, but the expenditures still went up. The conclusion is that we have been better about getting higher amount proposals.

The gap in the state budget means that we are not expecting major investment from the state. The OVPR is investing in seed grants right now. Over time, the office will assess whether these have brought in a return on investment.

The topic of the humanities arose. Dr. Reeder noted that there are ways in which humanities can be "reinvented" to make them viable for funding. Some of the data on such funding are being examined. The Graduate Student Organization (GSO) recently went to Washington, D.C. to meet with congressional staff to increase awareness and advocacy for research funding, including the humanities.

Several research training workshops are being organized and conducted by the OVPR.

Facilitating Researcher Success (FRS) study – 2 years post - Every 6 months, the office updates what has been done under the project. Most recommendations did not require new funding. So, most recommendations that did not require money were implemented. Staff was added to the Office of Proposal Development, but that was funded internally.

AAU status - AAU added three universities and did not remove any. The AAU had 60 in the US and 2 in Canada (Toronto and McGill). Now the AAU has a total of 65 universities. This has never happened (that they have added without removing anyone). There are several universities that have research expenditures much higher than ours that are not in AAU. We are 5 or 6 from the bottom of the AAU list.

(2) Open Access Policy renewal

Committee members noted that many faculty do not know about this policy. Discussion noted that there is a need for the library to help faculty navigate and negotiate with publishers about keeping their copyright; the library has previously expressed willingness to assist with this (the Department of Scholarly Communications). The importance of the policy is to promote and enhance open access to scholarly material. Its current language allows for faculty to "opt-out" but thus models a standard of open access, including the repository at SBU.

Committee members present at the meeting generally supported the policy but could not formally vote due to lack of quorum.