

Research Committee Report April 5, 2019

Chair: Iris C. Fineberg

Cognate Administrator: Richard Reeder, Vice President for Research Liaison to

Executive Committee: Mary Kritzer

Health Science Center

Iris Cohen Fineberg, School of Social Welfare, Co-Chair Annie Rohan, School of Nursing

Tim Duong, School of Medicine Department of Radiology

Humanities and Fine Arts

Jeffrey Edwards, Philosophy

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Marci Lobel, Psychology

Jason Jones, Computational Social Sciences (filling in for Jennifer Heerwig, Sociology academic year)

Natural Sciences

Nolwenn Dheilly, SoMAS (was Co-Chair until 12/2018 when Leave of Absence began)

Tzu-Chieh Wei, Physics and Astronomy

Library

Chris Kretz, Library

College of Engineering

Thomas Robertazzi, Electrical & Computer Engineering

Jason Trelewicz, Material Science

Professional: David Ecker, CELT

Students

Maame-Esi Otoo (Undergraduate) Roger Shek (Graduate)

Charge:

This Committee shall consult with and advise the Vice President for Research, the Provost, and other administrators as appropriate on all aspects of the research enterprise and scholarly activities on campus.

Report:

As of March 2019 the committee held five meetings this academic year, and two more are scheduled before the end of the academic year. One meeting was cancelled due to unanticipated circumstances. The committee aims to serve a bidirectional role in which it both illuminates issues that need attention and provides input to university leadership on research issues. The committee has had an unusual amount of shifting in attendees and members this year due to external factors such as committee members leaving the university, being on sabbatical or away for Fellowship. We are grateful to the faculty members who served as substitutes for committee members who were away, as well as to members who joined mid-year to fill vacancies. The committee met with key university leaders to discuss numerous issues. Below is a summary of these meetings: Guests: Sheila Routh (Director of Grants Management) and Stephanie Ammann (Assistant Director, Sponsored Project Expenditure).

October 2018 Last academic year, the committee had identified several questions related to grants management. As a result, we invited leadership from the Office of Grant Management to meet with the committee. The main topics covered at the meeting included an overview of the scope and roles of the Office of Grants Management, indirect costs at the university, the need for administrative support staff in departments, challenges in paying human subjects in research, and deciding whether to manage funding through Research Foundation versus the Stony Brook Foundation. Guest: Richard Reeder (Vice-President for Research).

February 2019 The committee has historically met with the Vice-Presidents for Research one or more times per academic year. At our February meeting with Richard Reeder, the main topics discussed included changes in the grant proposal submission policy and an overview of research at the university that covered such issues as research expenditures, travel and export controls, and progress in the MyResearch system. Guest: Richard Gerrig (Interim Dean of the Graduate School and Interim Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Education).

March 2019 A new Authorship Statement has been formulated by Richard Gerrig who is meeting with numerous stakeholders around the university for feedback on the statement draft. The committee was asked to provide input, and the meeting allowed for a thoughtful conversation about the document. In addition to our meetings with university leaders, the committee discusses topics noted by committee members or their colleagues that pertain to the research effort. Some of the noted challenges to research at the university are the following:

- Research computing needs – Committee members discussed examples and nuances of difficulties with research computing. A working group led by Melissa Woo and Richard Reeder has examined this topic, and the research committee looks forward to seeing the report from the group.
- Paying for laboratory items through State accounts – This activity has repeatedly cost researchers extensive time and effort to navigate.
- Research Compliance – Committee members has noted particular concerns related to how behavioral research is approached at SBU. The committee has invited the leadership of the Office for Research Compliance to a future committee meeting to allow for discussion of concerns and potential solutions.
- Technical support for laboratories – Reduction in the number of people available for laboratory support (construction, attention to hardware and software) has been noticeable. Questions about potential solutions to these changes have arisen.
- Difficulties in using startup money through State Accounts – The researcher ends up paying the “outside” (higher) rate, and the process is cumbersome. A similar problem exists with small grants that go to the Stony Brook Foundation (which is state money); it is a long and difficult process to set up the account.
- Supporting new faculty with positions for spouses – Committee members have noted the need for a more family friendly policy that will encourage hired faculty to stay at the university.