

University Research Council

Minutes of September 25, 2018 meeting

Members Present: Rob Rutenbar, SVCR and Chair; N. John Cooper, Deputy VC-Research; Jennifer Woodward, VC-Research Operations; Deborah Brake, Associate Dean-School of Law; Yvette Conley, School of Nursing; Marek Druzdzal, Prof-School of Information Sciences; Julie Fiez, Prof & Chair-Department of Psychology; Holger Hooch, Prof and Assoc Dean Grad Studies & Research-Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences; Sean Kelly, Prof-School of Education; William Layton, Prof-Dept of Mathematics; Kacey Marra, Assoc Prof-Departments Plastic Surgery/Bioeng; Elizabeth Monasterios, Prof of Latin American Literature; Frits Pil, Professor-Katz Graduate School of Business; Anne Robertson, Prof-Dept of Mechanical Engineering; Ayyavoo Velpandi, Assoc Dean & Prof, Graduate School of Public Health; Steven Stern, Prof and Chair, Division of Natural Sciences-Johnstown; Alexandre Vieira, Prof-School of Dental Medicine; Stephen Weber, Prof, Dept of Chemistry-Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences; Alexandria Harris, Graduate & Professional Student Government Board/URC Student Representative

Members Absent: Mark Anderson, Assoc Prof-Dept of English; Karen Arndt, Prof, Biological Sciences; Michelle Broido, Associate VC Biomedical Research, Health Sciences; Heidi Donovan, Prof & Vice Chair for Research-School of Nursing; William Dunn, Prof-Public Policy and Management; Raymond Engel, School of Social Work; Haider Hamoudi, Prof & Associate Dean for Research-School of Law; Kent Harries, Assoc Prof-Dept of Civil Engineering; Robert Gibbs, Prof-Pharm Sciences; Neil Hukriede, Vice Chair-Dept of Developmental Biology; Matthew Kropf, Assistant Professor of Energy Science & Technology-Bradford; Margaret Rosenzweig, Prof & Vice Chair of Research, School of Nursing; Jeremy Somers, Scientific Director-OORHS; Susan Sereika, Professor-School of Nursing;

Dr. Rob Rutenbar welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Members of Council introduced themselves

2. April 2, 2018 URC Meeting Minutes

The April meeting minutes had been circulated to Council and were approved *nem con*.

3. Update on Conflict of Interest for Research (COI-R).

Dr. Rutenbar described how the proposed COI-R policy review had been completed after the final, helpful, input by Council on April 2nd. After final revisions the proposed policy was shared with the Council of Deans, which reviewed and endorsed the draft. In March, the Senate Research Committee completed its review and voted unanimously to endorse the draft. The draft was then presented at the Faculty Assembly's April 10 meeting, and the Senate Council's April 18 meeting. Both groups endorsed the policy. The proposed policy was then sent to Chancellor Gallagher who reviewed it and signed the new policy on May 10, 2018.

The rewrite of the COI-R Policy was greatly facilitated by the creation of a unit within the Office of University Counsel to provide professional policy writing support. Many policies are being updated now and in the near future, and this new writing group will help ensure that policies are in appropriate, accessible language, are internally consistent, and are consistent with other policies.

4. Discussion of Changes in Bayh-Dole Compliance

Dr. Rutenbar reported on a major issue that arose over the summer involving a change in the regulations governing implementation of the Bayh-Dole Act. He reminded the Committee that the act allows universities that receive federal funding to acquire the intellectual property rights arising from inventions made in the course of federally sponsored research—prior to Bayh-Dole the US government claimed all intellectual rights created in the course of federally sponsored research. .

Several changes to the regulations impact the University’s obligations as a contractor/recipient of federal research funding, but one change in particular introduced a new requirement that the University have written IP assignment agreements with its employees conducting research under the federal grant or contract:

“The contractor agrees to require, by written agreement, its employees,to assign to the contractor the entire right, title and interest in and to each subject invention made under contract...”

The new language requires Pitt researchers who are employees to provide a written assignment, in the present moment, of intellectual property rights that will be created by future subject inventions under the federal funding agreement (this is called a “present assignment”).

The Bayh-Dole policy revisions went into effect on May 14, 2018, and the University of Pittsburgh’s Option 3 then became invalid. The University introduced a single form to replace Option 1, Option 2, and Option 3, but faculty expressed considerable concerns about the approach and an alternate approach is now being developed in consultation with the Senate Research Committee.

5. Projects for this year.

a. New Intellectual Property Policy

Dr. Rutenbar reported that work is continuing on the IP policy revision. The timeline for the revised policy targets completion by the end of the current academic year. A new committee will be convened and charged.

b. Drones (Allen DiPalma, Director, Office of Export Controls)

Mr. DiPalma gave a presentation on “Drones at Pitt.

The full presentation has been distributed with these Minutes, but in summary Mr. DiPalma outlined some of the opportunities offered by drones, the enthusiasm amongst students, staff, and researchers for both recreational and research use of drones, and some of the regulatory, privacy, and liability concerns that exist (including the FAA regulation of airspace in Oakland because of the heliports in the area).

Drones are aircraft, not toys, and the University needs to develop a policy regarding their use on our campuses and by our people.

6. Any other business

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.