

Faculty Senate Research Planning and Policy Committee

Charge: *“Reviews issues of long term and short term importance to the ISU research efforts. Serves as the advisory committee to the vice president for research and economic development (VPR/ED), and prepares reports and recommendations on items of importance to the faculty and/or the VPR/ED.”*

March 26, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Peter Martin, Chris Seeger, Jorgen Johansen, Julia Badenhope and VPR Sarah Nusser (ex officio).

Call to Order: 1:10 PM

Minutes could not be approved as there was not a quorum. Tabled until final meeting.

Ramaswami report delayed until April 30th.

With regard to review of human subjects research review (IRB), the committee reviewed specific impacts of slow review, which include delayed dissertation research for doctoral students and missed research opportunities, especially when related to time sensitive sponsorship and partnerships. VPR Nusser and the committee members reviewed pinch points in the process and proposed changes or improvements that could facilitate effective and efficient preparation and review. These include the following actions:

1. Provide concrete guidance for prospective researchers using case studies or examples from typical research designs, highlighting specific areas of concern for reviewers. (Explicit guidance for researchers, whether new faculty, graduate students, or people trying new research designs and methods).
2. Create parallel review streams. Limited staff and faculty time restrict the amount of review that can occur in any time period. This action requires increased staff hours, which has been requested by VPR Nusser in the 2016 budget.
3. Allow amendments to human subjects research proposals to proceed from the point of the process at which revisions have been requested. In the current review process, amended proposals begin the entire review process again as new proposal. Changing this procedure will expedite the final approval, and conserve staff hours.
4. Create a tracking process for proposals that is explicit about where proposals are in the review process and who needs to take action. This transparency will encourage faculty, staff and graduate student researchers and review staff to work effectively to advance proposals in a timely fashion. Such a tracking mechanism might also capture information about the review process that can be interpreted to improve proposal quality and review procedures.

The discussion of human resources review was tabled, as VP Julie Nuter is involved in TIER review. Nusser will present a joint report at the final meeting, scheduled April 30th.

Meeting adjourned 2:00 PM.