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University Senate Research Committee (USRC)
Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2024

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Meeting conducted by Zoom
Attended by: Qiaojie Xiong (Neurobiology and Behavior), Mark Chambers (Africana Studies & History) Brittain Mahaffey (Psychiatry/Psychology), Jerome Liang (Radiology), Shipra Agrawal (Department of Medicine), Glen Itzkowitz (SoM Asso Dean, Research Facilities & Operations), Roger Sher (Neurobiology and Behavior), Iris Fineberg (School of Social Welfare), Clara Tran (Library) Jason Trelewicz (Mat. Science & Engineering), Thomas Robertazzi (Electrical Engineering)
Russell Erfan (Student Representative)

Introduction of all committee members to new student member and Dr. Gardner

Agenda Items
Approval of October meeting minutes – Approved
Introduction and Conversation with Dr. Kevin Gardner (VPR)

Topics
Dr. Kevin Gardner (VPR) – Introductions and Updates. At SBU for 5 months
- Updates – Hiring
    - AVP (Associate VP) of Operations – Customer service part of research operations.
    - Will be visible on campus helping the community to think systematically; assist with writing proposal for grants. This will be done by faculty putting together their proposal narrative. The new group will take it from there gathering the CVs and all paperwork.
    - Pre-Award Proposal Development Specialist.
    - Communication Position – search
    - Student Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Office of Research and Innovation – will be the new name of the department
- Research Information Management System – new system that will work for faculty
    - University-Wide Platform
    - Obtain a list of faculty grants, departments
    - When Kevin was at the University of New Hampshire – similar system was put in place – it is automatic and will integrate with ORICID
        - Buy a system that will do this work
            - Request: Possible to have two people from this committee to help to identify the system.
    - AI Chatbot – all the policies and forms necessary to apply for a grant
    - Customer System – who is engaging with what businesses and industry (CRM)
    - PI Policy Updating – who can be a PI at Stony Brook to be compliant with Federal Regulations – Kevin will send us an update policy – want to broaden the types of titles; must be someone with an appointment at the University
        - **Question:** Seems like there is always a learning curve – what your plan in terms of facilitating assistance; are there any plans to increase staff

- **Response:** – no plan to expand the personnel – open to new and different ways of doing this work 100% - but need someone who will investigate these matters. No budget for hiring – with a new model
  - Collaboration with Springer Nature (Journals) to influence Stony Brook's National Reputation – Will share the branded content
    - First Topic – Quantum Communication – contracted for 9 Articles
  - Kickoff Rs – Cohort of 10-20 People Based Model – Proposal Writing Training

- The establishment of user facilities on campus
  We do not really have shared use facilities
  Will hire a Director of Core Facilities –
  Question: Money?
  Response: Unsure how this will work – if colleges have then need to make sure there is support; challenges to run Centralize vs. Decentralized

- The OSP staff for pre-award assistance - discussed

- The IT issue across campuses. One related concern is research data -- obtaining data from each side is difficult.
  Discussed in the research townhall 11/6,
  Project currently that will move the request from internal hospital – to be able to request clinical data. So East and West will be able to interface
  Data Brokerage Position – broker clinical data

- NIH has a lot of data available online. Previously the de-identified data can be downloaded by PI's communication with the NIH side. Now NIH asks for a signature from the university/school level.
  Lot of issues around data privacy and security
  i. Data use agreement all go through the Office of Research
  Data use in place for the entire campus

- **Question:** We do not have access on specific journals - is your office engage in the discussion on access to journals/papers. Can this not be a SUNY issue. Does the library not have access. We have access to very few Elsevier Journals for several years. Articles are not open access in a few journals.
  We do not have a shared facility; stop doing these piecemeal deals
  Question: – we have discussed with the library – paying the open access ($6500); whenever we discuss this there is a dead-end.
  Response: will investigate the so that we can be the research university need to be. Many Seed Grants / Tiger Teams but need to have a better balance
  Question: there should be a program in place – to be sure to get the equipment and modernizing space to accommodate the new equipment. Dollars better spent on doing the narrative of what is needed for the research.
  Response: 4 high priority building requests before the Legislator and Governor – I will investigate this. Quality of space is a limiting factor on the campus. What can be done cheaper.

- Undergraduate Research – People need to know where to get students to do research.
  Question: Student are looking for opportunities to work with faculty in labs. Selection is very random regarding the students; Undergrad Research Department; difficult the bring students and faculty together.
  Question: We have traditionally had undergrads in our labs; actively formalizing students; December Symposium; URECA; Program needs an infrastructure to support Undergrad Research; Is there a way for faculty in the labs to get funding support for students (R25 programs);
  Response UNH Robust undergrad funding to do research; need to find the resource infrastructure funding. Potential Endow-grant for Undergrad Research. Need to identify the level of support needed.

- The possibility of providing support for open access charges from the university.
  Kevin: Scale is a challenge. Place pre-publication on the library database making free access. Need to have a dialog with the library.

Remaining Meetings for 2024-2025

December 13, 2024   Dr. Kevin Gardner (VPR),

February 14, 2025   Dr. Kevin Gardner (VPR)

March 14, 2025

April 11, 2025

May 9, 2025