

Minutes*

**Senate Research Committee
Monday, May 1, 2006
1:15 - 3:00
238 Morrill Hall**

Present: Steven Ruggles (chair), Lyn Bearinger, Sharon Danes, Genevieve Escure, J. Stephen Gantt, Jake Granholm, James Klaas, James Luby, Tim Mulcahy, Mark Paller, Brian Reilly, Thomas Schumacher, Charles Spetland, George Trachte, Barbara VanDrasek, Jean Witson

Absent: Mark Ascerno, Dianne Bartels, Richard Bianco, Kathy Bowlin, Arlene Carney, James Cotter, Christopher Cramer, Dan Dahlberg, Robin Dittman, Penny Edgell, Paul Johnson, Maria Sera, Virginia Seybold, Michael Volna

Guests: Wendy Lougee

Other: none

[In these minutes: (1) Educational Mandates for Research; (2) Libraries Update]

Professor Ruggles convened the meeting at 1:20 pm.

1. Educational Mandates for Research

Professor Paller discussed mandates for research and mandatory credentialing methodology. He said that there is not any credentialing methodology available and that a medical degree does equate to research expertise. Often curriculums do not provide instruction on how to do research and people often get continued degrees or fellowships. Professor Paller discussed research mandates in various units, and how people in various tracks might receive formal mentoring and training. He noted that the NIH has mandated a minimal amount of training on NIH grants and those on patient-oriented research will have to have taken the training. Professor Paller said that as part of a recent application to NIH, they had agreed to convene a group of clinical researchers to start looking at those questions and developing a policy. He discussed the possible parameters for the policy, and external accreditations and exemptions. This also included the issue of what to do for other clinical research staff, such as research coordinators. The committee discussed corollary issues. Professor Paller said that this would be a topic at a major clinical research conference that was going to be held. He pointed out that the University already conducted a lot of educational programs.

Ms. Witson asked what research skills would be taught and how the course could be required considering that different sets of skills may be required in clinical research. Professor Paller said that to get full training in research one almost would have to get a masters' degree. He said that they advocated and advised that if one is serious about research as a career, then one should get an advance degree. Professor Danes asked who would be undergoing the training and at what level decisions would be made. Professor Paller said that it depended on how it was approached, and discussed options in approaching the training. He said that he would recommend that the training be required for people doing human clinical research. Professor Paller discussed potential parameters for the training. Ms. VanDrasek asked if this

was something that did not necessarily need fixing. Professor Paller said that they could be doing better, and emphasized that this was not coming from a regulatory risk standpoint.

Vice President Mulcahy said that there would be strong resistance in requiring work equivalent to a masters' degree, and suggested possible alternatives. For example, the University of Wisconsin offers three-day workshops open to anyone in clinical research for which continuing education credits are received. He asked if there were any alternatives in the middle ground. Professor Paller said that masters' degrees were one end of the spectrum and that compromise might well be the way to go. Vice President Mulcahy pointed out that there is a significant difference in lab research and social science research. Professor Ruggles asked if there was certainty that ad hoc systems don't work, and Mr. Schumacher compared it to a business model, wherein that the cost of people not knowing what to do greatly exceeds preparation on the front end. He asked how it had been assured that clinical researchers have those competencies and how that is a good business decision. Professor Bearinger cited her experiences in the nursing program, and said that she would favor making options available. Ms. Witson cited "good laboratory practices" (GLP) and "good clinical practices" (GCP) guidelines. Professor Paller thanked the committee for its feedback.

2. Libraries Update

Wendy Lougee, University Librarian, presented an update on the libraries. She distributed a presentation for the committee's reference. She reviewed a resources snapshot, budget, history of libraries central funding, and collection issues. Ms. Lougee noted the difficulty in attributing costs that the new budget model requires, as information resources are infinitely reusable which does not fit into most budget models. In addition, many non-university people use the collection. Ms. Lougee discussed trends, and cited significant increases in remote use of libraries and demand for instructional programs. Ms. Lougee highlighted drivers' of libraries' costs and reviewed the three different attribution models that had been discussed with the budget model task force. She talked about the principles of public good and common good. The committee discussed options in the budget models and distinctions in weighted and unweighted headcounts. Ms. Lougee pointed out that for libraries, increase in demand was a good thing. Professor. Bearinger suggested that incorporating aspects of all three models might work. Ms. Lougee discussed the last compact process. She went on to review outcomes, including the Association of Research Libraries rankings, collection expenditures, staff, collections and general appropriations and libraries planning.

Professor Danes asked about endowments to the library and Ms. Lougee said that there had been a part-time development staff member but more recently they'd hired a full-time staff member. Historically, the majority of gifts to the Libraries were for collections and primarily special and rare collections. The committee discussed various development efforts at peer institutions.

Ms. Lougee presented further information about strategic priorities for FY07 and the FY07 budget, research infrastructures, and a prototype for an on-line research environment for scholars' tools that would allow one to choose different options for customized searching. She discussed potential partnerships for this project. The committee discussed how faculty dealt with certain journal subscriptions being discontinued, and Vice President Mulcahy discussed copyright efforts and journal rights.

The meeting adjourned at 3 pm.

-- Mary Jo Pehl