

To: Faculty Senate

Topic: Report of the newly formed University Research Advisory Committee

Date: April 26, 2017

Committee members: Michael Summers (COS-Physics & Astronomy, Chair), Claudio Cioffi (COS-Computational & Data Sciences), Gerald Hanweck (Business-Finance), Amy Hutchison (CEHD-Graduate School of Education), Bijan Jabbari (VSE-Electrical & Computer Engineering), Sharon Leon (CHSS – History & Art History), Kimberly Sheridan (CVPA-Art Education; CEHD – Educational Psychology), June Tangney (CHSS-Psychology)

The University Research Advisory Committee was formed on December 8, 2016 by the Faculty Senate with the charge “To work with the Office of Research and its subsidiary offices (e.g., Office of Research Integrity and Assurance, Office of Sponsored Programs), as well as the Associate Vice President for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, in shaping the research initiatives and policies of the university. The Committee will serve in an advisory capacity to the Vice President of Research, the Associate Vice President for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and associated offices.”

In January the committee had an introductory meeting with the Vice President for Research (Deborah Crawford) and began a discussion on the manner in which the Committee could advise and assist the VPR in its various research-related activities related to improving the research stature of GMU. Among the many topics, ideas, and suggestions discussed at that meeting regarding the research environment at GMU, the VPR asked the Committee to solicit input from the community of GMU researchers on ways in which the university could help them in their work and in obtaining outside research funding.

The Committee has since met three times to begin developing a strategy for facilitating communication between researchers and the GMU administration. The general goals are to identify problem areas for researchers as well as to highlight research opportunities of special significance, and to help communicate these to the Office of the VPR in a timely manner.

This Committee is new, and there is much work to be done that can improve the research posture of GMU.