April 28, 2020

To: Faculty Senate

From: Faye Taxman

On behalf of the Research Committee

This is a report from Faye S Taxman; Andrew Novak; Jaime R Lester; Alan J Abramson; Lance A Liotta; Andrea Weeks; and Ali Weinstein of the Research Committee. During this year, Jaime Lester and Amarda Shehu were originally on the committee but Dr. Lester resigned when she took a position in the CHSS Dean’s Office and Dr. Shehu had another appointment at a federal agency.

The Research Committee routinely attends the Research Council meeting chaired by Dr. Deborah Crawford. They tend to occur monthly. Attendees at this meeting are: Ali Andalibi, Amy Adams, Anthony E Kelly, Anthony Stefanidis, Arthur B Pyster, Aurali Dade, Bethany Usher, Charles Spann, Cody Edwards, Hina Mehta, Jayshree Sarma, Julie Zobel, Kerry D Bolognese, Kim Eby, Laura K Manno, Lisa C. Kahn, Mercedes Torres Price, Mike Laskofski, Michele Schwietz, Naoru Koizumi, Rebekah K Hersch, Richard Klimoski, Rodney Hopson, Saleet Jafri, Sara Cobb, Sean Mallon, William Hazel, Tonya T Neaves, Laurence Bray, David RehrEmeka Ezidinma, Gloria Garcia, , Heather Aleknavage, Kathleen Tutem, Kerriann Cardoza, Lillian Virgil, Susan B Woodruff, M Leigh Harrison, Alison Cuellar, Rebecca S Hartley, Deborah Crawford and Natalie M Davis. Drs. Ali Weinstein and Abramson attended these meetings for the Research Committee. These meetings are generally informational meetings devoted to discussing research and infrastructure issues.

As per the specific questions.

1. During the past calendar year has the President or Provost announced initiatives or goals or acted upon issues that fall under the charge of your Committee? If so, was your Committee consulted by the President or Provost in a timely manner before the announcement or action? If not, do you believe your Committee should have been consulted? Would it have been helpful to have had the input of your Committee from the outset?

Due to COVID-19, the University developed research contingency plans. The sudden nature (and severity) of COVID-19 on the University (and the world at large) resulted in these plans being rolled out. Dr. Weinstein served on this committee and helped develop the procedures, located at. https://www2.gmu.edu/coronavirus-covid-19/research-continuity-guidelines. The immediate impact of COVID-19 required quick action. If there had been more time, this is the type of actions where the Research Committee should have been consulted.

2. Did your Committee seek information or input from the President or Provost or members of their staffs? If so, did they respond adequately and in a timely manner?
The Research Committee did not seek information or input from anyone this past year.

3. Please suggest how you believe the President, Provost and/or their staffs might more effectively interact with your Committee in the future, if necessary.

While the Research Committee is present at the Research Council meetings led by Dr. Crawford, these meetings are more administrative and informational. It would be beneficial if the representatives from the Research Council met with Dr. Crawford, Mr. Laskofski, and Dr. Hartley three times a year to discuss matters related to the faculty, research, infrastructure, and other issues that cannot be addressed in the large meeting.

4. Please relate any additional information you may have regarding interactions between your Committee and the President or Provost or their staff.