

Interim Report of the Research Infrastructure Committee to the ECAS Senate.

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Committee

- Faculty: **Sherryl Goodman**, Professor of Psychology; **William Kelly**, Professor of Biology; **Bonna Wescoat**, Professor of Art History.
- Administrators: **Paul Byrnes**, Chief Business Officer, LGS; **Ronald Calabrese**, Senior Associate Dean for Research, ECAS; **Carol King**, Chief Business Officer, ECAS; **Laura Papotto**, Director ECAS Human Resources.

Why are we doing this?

- We are responding to a need identified by the faculty during last year's strategic planning to reduce intuitional and regulatory barriers to research.
- Committee formed 8/16.
- We started with Research Administration (ORA) because the transition to the RAS structure was presenting challenges to both faculty and staff.

Who have we talked to?

- **Finance Grants and Contracts (FGC):** Bill Lambert, Director
- **The Complete Grant Cycle:** Kerry Peluso Associate Vice President for Research Administration (OSP), Holly Sommers, Director, PreAward Grants OSP, William Lambert Director of FGC. Kady Weingart Director CAPS RAS
- **Institutional Review Board (IRB):** Rebecca Rousselle, Director Emory Institutional Review Board (IRB), and Carol Corkran, Research Protocol Analyst, Team Lead expertise in behavioral research.

What have we learned (RA)?

- All grant 'problems' should be negotiated by the faculty through either their preaward or postaward analyst in CAPS RAS.
- The various offices are taking steps to get better organized.
- Staffing is an issue – training and retention
- Understanding and serving faculty needs is often not the top priority.
- Coordination across offices in ways that would serve faculty needs – a problem.

What are we going to do about it?

- Continue working with the CAPS RAS to improve efficiency and service.
- Our meeting, which reached across OSP and FGC, has already had a positive effect in promoting communication.
- The COMPASS upgrade should promote FGC OSP communication; we need to monitor the situation.

What have we learned (IRB)?

- eIRB software is inadequate.
- Social Science analysts are in short supply.
- Changes in federal regulation that are about to be implemented could significantly reduce administrative burden for the faculty.

What are we going to do about it?

- Continue working with IRB to improve efficiency and service.
- Wait and see about eIRB software upgrades within an ORA wide upgrade.
- Wait and see about new federal regulations.

Planned meetings this academic year

- Lisa Tedesco, Dean LGS: Graduate student finance.

Overarching conclusion

- The process we have undertaken has been valuable in itself. We have learned a lot about the potential and limitations of reforming RA and IRB, and we have opened channels of communication that can be valuable in future in minimizing faculty burden.

Where do we go from here?

- We need feedback.
- Should we continue next year?
- What other groups should we meet with?
- How can we make recommendations effective?