**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP**

Date: February 15th 2018 (3:00- 4:00 pm)

**LOCATION**

Boston: Sackler 802

Medford: Ballou basement videoconference room in MedfordSackler 320 and Ballou VC room

Present: Nirupa Matthan, Brent Cochran, Roman Schumann, Rob Jacob, Roger Tobin, Mitch Mcvey.

Invited Guest: Simin Meydani

**AGENDA ITEMS**



**Strategic planning process and senate representation**

Simin was very receptive to having committee representation. Details on whether to add member(s) to the executive or steering committee still need to be worked out. She also expressed some frustration that not all schools are responsive to requests for faculty representation. Our committee re-iterated that such request could be directed to us and that are goal is to serve as the bridge between OVPR and the schools on research and scholarship related matters.

**Research infrastructure (pre- and post- award support, RAS, directory)**

Simin and her office are very aware of the issues, especially at AS&E. While she has re-organized her department to stretch resources, she indicated OVPRs commitment to research infrastructure efficiency and that her staff will be held accountable. There was also discussion about school specific issues needing to be addressed by the respective Deans.

Suggestion to help support staff with training and other resources were also discussed.

One of our committee’s suggestions is to consider implementing the models that seem to working in other schools as best practices and to conduct annual surveys so as to assess and communicate progress so that course corrections can be made, if needed.

**Research priorities**

There was discussion on shifting focus of research from soley interdisciplinary to other models to foster collaboration.

**Seed grants**

Conveyed concern that has been expressed by some mid-career level faculty that the research environment invests heavily in junior faculty and that many mid-career faculty do not have many internal funding opportunities. The need was expressed for pilot funding to enable further career growth and progression for this level of faculty.

**Faculty input on new initiatives**

The committee re-iterated the importance of having faculty involved/input on R&S based initiatives prior to launch.

**Social events to foster cross-school collaborations**

Finally, we discussed launching a variety of social events to foster cross-school collaborations.