

## Research Challenge Committee

November 13, 2013 Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Jerzy Sawicki, Chair  
Conor M<sup>c</sup>Lennan, Ex-Officio Member  
Joseph Han, Ex-Officio Member

Ziona Austrian  
Samantha Baskind  
Jesse Drucker  
Tim Long  
Barsanjit Mazumder

Justin Perry  
Nigamanth Sridhar  
Antonie van den Bogert  
William Wilson

**Absent/Excused:** Anton Komar

**Guests:** Dr. Deirdre Mageean, Provost  
Dr. Jianping Zhu, Senior Vice Provost and Dean, College of Graduate Studies

Dr. Sawicki called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda for the November 13, 2013 Meeting  
Approved and seconded as written.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the September 12, 2013 Meeting  
Approved and seconded as written.
3. Addressing Research Related Challenges – Provost Deirdre Mageean  
Dr. Sawicki provided Provost Mageean with an introduction to, and general overview of, the Research Challenge Committee, including the history of establishing the committee, the appointment of committee members, and problems addressed by the committee. The Provost then spoke about the challenges facing the University, including funding, changing the culture at CSU, and the relationship between teaching and research. The Provost would like to see CSU become known for its undergraduate research.
4. Hiring Research Faculty – Dr. Sawicki and Vice Provost Jianping Zhu
  - There is an issue with the current language in the AAUP contract in terms of creating Faculty Research positions at CSU for Professional Staff members who hold a Ph.D., and who are fully supported by grants.
  - There is some concern that accepting the new position (and title) might require giving up current titles (e.g., the Director of Center).
  - There was a discussion regarding the logistics of the transition (e.g., to avoid losing benefits).

- There is a need for a clear definition of a position title (i.e., Professional Staff or Faculty) for retirement benefits and contract terms (9-month vs. 12-month).
- Details about hiring research faculty and the criteria for promotion are still being worked out in the latest revisions to the Greenbook.

5. Agenda Items for the next Meeting

The next RCC meeting will be in the beginning of the spring semester.

6. New Business

No new business was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.