

University Senate Research Committee (USRC)

2024 Sep to 2025 May

Committee members:

Brittain Mahaffey (Psychiatry/Psychology), Qiaojie Xiong (Neurobiology and Behavior), Jerome Liang (Radiology), Shipra Agrawal (Department of Medicine), Glen Itzkowitz (SoM Asso Dean, Research Facilities & Operations), Pamela Ginex (School of Nursing), Thomas Robertazzi (Electrical and Computer Engineering), Roger Sher (Neurobiology and Behavior), Mark Chambers (Africana Studies & History), Iris Fineberg (School of Social Welfare), Clara Tran (Library), Jason Trelewicz (Mat. Science & Engineering), Yong Chen (School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences)
Russell Erfan (Student Representative), Ammar Gondal (Student Representative);

Items:

1. Meetings with the provost Dr. Lejuez

The committee met with the provost on Oct 11th, 2024 to discuss a series of research related issues on campus, including the new budget model, library funding support, office of grants management, and IT support. The clarification of budget model paused due to the current unclear situation on NIH IDC rate.

The committee then reached out to corresponding administrators for all other individual issues. More details listed below.

2. Meetings with the VPR Dr. Gardner

The committee met with the VPR on Nov 8th, 2024 and Mar 14th, 2025, and received updates on new research information management system, new hiring and plan in research support, and grant workshops. The committee raised issues in lacking support for research facilities, OSP staff for pre-award assistance, IT issues on communications or sharing between east and west campuses, and the journal access issues. The discussion is continuing, and a big hurdle is money support to solve most of these problems.

3. Discussions on international travel policy

The committee met with the VPR and Susan Gasparo in the OVPR to discuss SBU international travel policy and process. Through Susan's overview and Q & A section, the committee found the policy clear. Individual cases are dependent on travel destinations, research fields, and funding sources. For the review process, ERM checks all safety issues and OVPR reviews research security and export control.

4. Discussions on journal access issues

The library receives support for the pilot of Article Galaxy Scholar for immediate access to high-demand journals not currently subscribed to by the libraries, including those in the Elsevier ScienceDirect package.

5. Discussions on research software support

The committee met the director of support service, Henry Josph, on April 21st, 2025, to discuss the software support for research. We identified: 1) The available resources for

research, including campus licensed ones and discounted ones --- all can be found from Virtual SINC site and Service Catalog (<https://it.stonybrook.edu/services/catalog>), respectively. 2) Additional software may be purchased on a departmental basis or individual lab basis, through requesting on Help Desk. 3) Procurement office monitors software purchasing from individual labs. When the demand reaches a threshold, the IT department will look for group-license options.

The committee also identified several software that may be essential for many researchers on campus, such as NVivo, GraphPad, and BioRender, which would be worth negotiating a group license or campus license rather than individual purchasing. Thus, a proactive approach to identifying the software and potential users would be a better way in the decision-making process. The committee will reach out to other related committees and conduct a survey to collect this information.