

2018-2019 Year-End Committee Report

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| Committee: | Research Affairs |
| Charge: | addresses issues that impact research-related activities conducted by the faculty. |
| Chair: | Tom Meade |
| # of Meetings: | 2 in person and several decisions made by email |

Completed Business and/or Accomplishments

After initially polling the members regarding the most significant issues that research at Northwestern faces, the committee decided to address several issues within the Office of Sponsored Research (OSR). We identified three areas of concern: pre and post award administration; understaffing; and a lack of transparency regarding grant processing.

The committee wrote a resolution articulating these concerns, however prior to the Senate meeting at which the resolution would be presented, the administration sent an email to all research faculty acknowledging the problems we identified and laying out a plan for how these problems would be fixed. The committee was very pleased with the quick response from the administration and overwhelmingly agreed a resolution was unnecessary.

Unfinished/Continuing Business

-Continue to monitor the OSR situation

-Keep an open dialogue with the administration on second year funding for STEM graduate students (see resolution the Senate passed in June 2018)

New Business for Next Year

-Space for labs (we agreed the OSR issues were more pressing)

-Consider how secure and share large equipment in labs