

## 2019-2020 Year-End Committee Report

<b>Committee:</b>	Research Affairs Committee
<b>Charge:</b>	Addresses issues that impact research-related activities conducted by the faculty
<b>Chair:</b>	Robert Holmgren
<b># of Meetings:</b>	3

### **Completed Business and/or Accomplishments**

This past year the Research Affairs Committee addressed several issues.

The first was to request that the VP for research, Milan Mrksich, address the Senate and take questions about potential changes in how research space on the Evanston campus would be allocated. Prof. Mrksich addressed the Senate at its April meeting.

The second issue was concerns about the turnaround time for IRB approval. Prof. Contractor solicited feedback from the Northwestern community on behalf of the Research Affairs Committee and produced a thorough report that was submitted to the VP for Research, the Provost and the Senior VP for Business and Finance.

The Research Affairs Committee also approached the administration about issues regarding timely notification of construction, which was causing interruptions in research.

### **Unfinished/Continuing Business**

While the VP for research did address the Senate and the Research Affairs Committee was able to generate a report on IRB turn around time, both of these issues will need to be monitored next year.

A member of the Research Affairs Committee was added to the Foreign Interference Task Force, but with the Chair of that committee, Jay Walsh, leaving Northwestern, the work of the task force has been interrupted. Nonetheless, significant issues exist about reporting requirements on faculty and student interactions with foreign universities and other entities. These issues will need to be addressed next year.

**New Business for Next Year**

Issues with opening up laboratories in the context of the covid-19 pandemic.