Continuity of Committee Mission:
The current and past research committee chairs met to discuss continuity of agenda items for multi-year initiatives. We will continue to monitor follow-up items from Academic Year 2012-13 and will coordinate with the new research committee to assure continuity into Academic Year 2013-14. McCubbin has been asked by President-elect Kelly Smith to continue as chair of the research committee in AY 2013-14.

Faculty Survey of Institutional Support for Faculty Research:
The Committee solicited faculty input to identify the most pressing campus-wide issues that impact faculty research and scholarly success here at Clemson. We asked about perceptions of Clemson’s research infrastructure needs and other challenges to faculty research productivity. Information was used to develop an agenda of high priority research concerns. The final report has been sent to Larry Dooley, Interim VP for Research with a copy to Karen Burg, Interim Dean of the Graduate School. Both have replied and support this ongoing effort and dialogue.

Nationwide Inefficiencies in Research Resulting from Administrative Burdens
A survey released in 2007 by the Federal Demonstration Partnership, an association of federal agencies, research universities, and research-policy groups estimated that 42 percent of American researchers' time is spent on administrative tasks, compared with 18 percent two decades earlier. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will open a 60-day comment period as soon as a draft proposal is finished. This offers an opportunity for the research community and anyone who recognizes the value of scientific progress to help ensure that American science thrives in an accountable, efficient, and effective way. The Research Committee has been involved with the Office of the VP for Research in coordination of an institution-level response to U.S. OMB call for comments on administrative burdens and inefficiencies for U.S. researchers.

Clemson University Authorship Guidelines:
Tracy Arwood, Assistant VP for Research Compliance, has asked the Senate Research Committee to look at a draft of Clemson University Authorship Guidelines (see attached). This document could possibly be of great help in training of students and prevention of authorship disputes. The research committee has been asked to review this draft and provide comments and feedback for development of university level guidelines. Work on this document will likely continue into the next academic year.

Video Surveillance Policy:
The Research Committee read and provided feedback to CUDP Chief Jim Link on a draft Video Surveillance Policy. The committee recommended that this policy exempt video collected for research purposes in order to avoid conflict with federal guidelines on protection of human research subjects.
Assessment of Digital Commons Utility:
The Committee assessed the utility of Digital Commons http://digitalcommons.bepress.com/ as a hosted platform repository for institutional content of any type. Digital Commons offers a traditional institutional repository as well as professional publishing software, management tools and faculty pages to communicate, via multi-media capabilities, research and scholarly products. This can potentially collect, preserve and publish theses and dissertations, pre-prints, working papers, journal articles, conference proceedings and other content. This platform is currently being assessed as a potential singular portal for input and maintenance of data for the CU Faculty Activity System database. Specifically, we are assessing the use of Digital Commons for reporting faculty CVs, publications and other accomplishments.

University Policy on Conflict of Interest
The Research Committee Chair provided input to then-VPR Gerry Sonnenfeld and General Counsel Chip Hood on a draft university policy on conflict of interest. This policy was developed in response to the U.S. Public Health Service’s new requirements for reporting financial conflicts of interest by anyone involved in PHS grants.

Academic Advising and Accreditation
The new Banner-based IROAR software did not originally provide for a requirement for academic advisors to clear students for registration only after receiving academic advising. The Research Committee Chair provided input to Senate President King on the importance of academic advising in accreditation guidelines. Accreditation guidelines provided an additional rational to compel implementation of a university-level provision for registration clearance. This clearance for registration provision has now been incorporated into the IROAR Fall ’13 registration process.

Fringe Benefit Policies for Postdoctoral Fellows:
The Research Committee was represented in discussions with Kristina Kaylor of Human Resources on fringe benefit policies for postdoctoral fellows and personnel hired on research grants.

Senate Representation in Search for Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs
The Faculty Senate was represented by the Research Committee at open forums with candidates for Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs

Personnel Issues:
The Research Committee convened in executive session to discuss and provide guidance to the President of the Faculty Senate on a personnel issue.