Jay Frerotte, Director of Environmental Health and Safety Office, gave a presentation to the Council on *Dual Use Research of Concern* (DURC).

- Mark Redfern commented after Jay’s talk that DURC may apply to more investigators in the future, especially in the Health Sciences.

Mark discussed URC goals and plans for this academic year:

- Invite more speakers from various Schools/Departments to future URC Meetings. Asked Council for any suggestions for speakers.

- Continue the URC sub committees work from last year. Look forward to hearing from the sub committees on various issues and suggestions throughout this academic year.

- The Council will have an integral part in the upcoming policy/procedures reviews and changes that are now being worked on through various committees that Mark is chairing. More information on these developments will be announced in upcoming meetings:
  - University’s Strategic Planning Process: Strategic Planning being looked at for the University (as a whole), and for Schools/Regional campuses. Mark is charged with the global research plan across the University.
    - One important issue is Pitt’s Advanced Computer Structure going forward. Mark will look to the Council for more input in this area.
  - Patent/Copyright Policy Ad Hoc Committee: Policy Review Committee
  - Process Improvement Committee: This committee has been in effect since January 2015. The goal is to help improve processes across the university, especially those that effect several campus offices. Mark will look to the Council to give suggestions for this committee.
  - University Senate Research Committee:
    - New Senate committee formed this year
    - Mark commented he’s not sure yet how this committee will interact with the URC

- Other Comments:
  - Mark and Kathy Blee distributed the 2015 Humanities Special Initiative Funding announcement (see attached)
  - Jane Cauley brought up issue regarding two-year spending restriction on RDF accounts and the difficulties with having this limitation:
    - ACTION ITEM: *Mark will look at policy to investigate if restriction can be lifted or extended.*
• Volunteers working in laboratories
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Mark to discuss current policy for volunteers with Dr. Juan Manfredi and will report back to Council.

• Other Action Items:
  
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Mark will reach out to Council regarding Sub Committee assignments for this year
  
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Mark to review and update current URC Web Site
  
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Future speakers at URC Meetings:
    - Vice Provost George Huber
    - Vice Provost Alberta Sbragia

**The next URC meeting (Provost’s Charge) is scheduled for October 30th at 2:00 pm – Cathedral, Room 826.**