

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Research Policies Council</b> <b>Charge regarding Institutional Review Boards</b></p>
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**Preamble**

With WMU's Carnegie Foundation classification of doctoral/research-extensive, adhering to policies regarding responsible conduct of research remains an omnipresent issue. Agencies and firms providing grants and funding for research continue to update and revise their guidelines for conducting research. WMU must assume the initiative for keeping its policies and procedures updated and for promoting integrity in research.

**Charge**

The Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the Research Policies Council with the ongoing task of monitoring and making recommendations to update Western Michigan University's policies and procedures regarding not only human subjects institutional review boards, but other federally-imposed research guidelines.

The council is advised to include in its discussions the WMU Chapter of the AAUP, as research is covered by the Agreement. Also, please include in your discussions any other parties affected by or responsible for any recommendations or suggested implementation.

**Report Date**

As an ongoing charge, please submit your report to the Faculty Senate Executive Board by **February 1** of each year, for presentation to the Faculty Senate at its **March** meeting.

## **Research Policies Council**

### **Charge regarding Centers of Excellence**

#### **Preamble**

The number of faculty members at Western Michigan University's continues to grow and become more diverse. The faculty have authored a number of books and scholarly journal publications, and many of them are recognized experts in their fields, with national or international reputations. The University can boast a number of different research strengths. The past and future success of the University is partially based on active engagement in a variety of research activities. However, to effectively advance research efforts, the University should focus on those areas in which it can excel.

#### **Charge**

The Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the Research Policies Council with the task of determining criteria for identifying centers of excellence. Criteria for centers of excellence that have been used by other academic institutions include teaching, learning, and scholarship that:

- can substantially increase enrollment by attracting students of high quality and motivation;
- can contribute to the university's increased reputation as an institution of high academic quality;
- speaks vibrantly and powerfully to an active, energetic, and important segment of the external community;
- occupies a niche that allows the university to distinguish itself among academic institutions;
- can serve as a model for curricular innovation and scholarship throughout the university;
- has potential for simultaneously increasing visible institutional excellence in research, teaching and learning, and service;
- can attract resources sufficient for an endowment that will anchor and sustain the work of the center on an ongoing basis (e.g., the resources for an endowed chair occupied by a faculty member whose teaching and scholarship engages students and supports highly visible, scholarly activities both on campus and in national forums);
- is academically, institutionally, fiscally, and competitively feasible.  
(St. Edward's University, [www.stedwards.edu](http://www.stedwards.edu))

#### **Report Date**

Please submit your report to the Faculty Senate Executive Board by **1 February 2004**, for presentation to the Faculty Senate at its **March 2004** meeting.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Research Policies Council</b> <b>Charge regarding Research Recognition</b></p>
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**Preamble**

Western Michigan University's Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award was not awarded in 2002 for the first time since the University's designation as a doctoral/research-extensive institution. Although expectations for faculty research continue to grow each year, recognition of funded and non-funded research seems to decline. In addition, the University lacks a universal system or program for documenting non-funded research, creative, and scholarly activities. During the 2002-2003 academic year, the Office of the Vice President for Research engaged in a pilot project that tracked books, chapters, articles, presentations, and exhibits for the Department of History via a Web site.

**Charge**

The Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the Research Policies Council with the task of developing a system of recognition for funded and non-funded research and creative activities, as well as procedures for documenting non-funded research and creative activities. The council is advised to include in its discussions any parties affected by or responsible for any recommendations or suggested implementation.

**Report Date**

Please submit your report to the Faculty Senate Executive Board by **1 February 2004**, for presentation to the Faculty Senate at its **March 2004** meeting.

<p style="text-align:center"><b>Research Policies Council</b> <b>Charge regarding Indirect Cost Recovery</b></p>
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**Preamble**

According to the Office of the Vice President for Research:

Indirect cost (F&A) recovery partially reimburses the University for actual costs incurred for conducting sponsored projects at WMU. A portion of the indirect costs (F&A) recovered is distributed to the units to support research. Indirect cost recovery is also used to support the administrative costs of complying with the various sponsors' regulations, to fund internal University grant programs for faculty beyond those provided in the *Agreement Between WMU and the AAUP*, and to meet cost-sharing requirements for large equipment purchases that enhance the University's research capability (<http://www.wmich.edu/~ovpr/project/projadmin.html>).

Currently, a portion of the indirect costs that are recovered are distributed to the primary investigators and colleges.

**Charge**

The Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the Research Policies Council with the task of reviewing the policy for distribution of indirect costs and recommending changes for updating the policy. The council is advised to include in its discussions any parties affected by or responsible for any recommendations for change or suggested implementation.

**Report Date**

Please submit your final report to the Faculty Senate Executive Board by **1 February 2004**, for presentation to the Faculty Senate at its **March 2004** meeting.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Research Policies Council</b> <b>Charge regarding Research Ethics Training</b></p>
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**Preamble**

The need for explicit training in research ethics is widely recognized; mentoring and modeling ethical behavior are no longer considered sufficient. Several federal agencies, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), now require training in the responsible conduct of research as part of their grants. The University of Michigan requires that new faculty members serving as principal investigators complete a research ethics training module prior to spending funds from sponsored projects.

Through the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society, Mike Pritchard has been conducting ethics workshops, sponsored by a grant from the National Science Foundation. That grant will soon be expiring. Establishment of a permanent training program has the potential to have a significant impact on the University, affecting faculty, students, and the institution as a whole.

**Charge**

The Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the Research Policies Council with the task of developing a recommendation regarding institutionalizing research ethics training. The council is advised to include in its discussions any parties affected by or responsible for any recommendations for change or suggested implementation.

**Report Date**

Please submit your final report to the Faculty Senate Executive Board by **1 February 2004**, for presentation to the Faculty Senate at its **March 2004** meeting.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Research Policies Council</b> <b>Charge regarding Research Obstacles</b></p>
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**Preamble**

In order to maintain Western Michigan University's designation as a research institution, raising awareness of research and elevating the research culture at the philosophical level become essential. In order to build an organizational climate in which research can grow and flourish, the University needs to take steps to make research activities cohesive and facilitated for researchers. Although research motivation is strongly linked to the researcher's level of self-efficacy, there are several factors that contribute positively to increasing research outputs. These factors include providing administrative support, facilities, and resources for researchers, as well as removing obstacles that might hinder productive research. Such actions at the institutional level are vital in the development of a culture where research plays a prominent part.

**Charge**

The Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the Research Policies Council with the task of identifying policies that interfere with research and developing recommendations to remedy the problems. These policies might include, but are not limited to:

- teaching loads versus research loads (specifically, accounting of funded buy-out time),
- administrative support of research,
  - financial administration,
  - space allocation,
  - general administration,
  - the role of the associate dean for research,
- maintenance and upgrade of research equipment.

The council is advised to include in its discussions any parties affected by or responsible for any recommendations for change or suggested implementation.

**Report Date**

Please plan to present an interim report to the Faculty Senate at its **March 2004** meeting. Submit your final report to the Faculty Senate Executive Board by **1 February 2005**, for presentation to the Faculty Senate at its **March 2005** meeting.