

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 10 September 2020**

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Research Policies Council was called to order at 2:31 p.m. on 10 September 2020, via Webex video conferencing by Anthony DeFulio, Faculty Senate Executive Board representative.

Roll Call

Members in Attendance: Onur Arugaslan, Manuel Bautista, Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Steven Carr, Chris Coryn, Anthony DeFulio, Robert Wall Emerson, Wanda Hadley, David Huffman, Terri Kinzy, Heather Petcovic (designee for Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jennifer Bott), Susan Steuer, Andre Venter

Members Absent: Paul Solomon, graduate student representatives not appointed as yet

Guest: Marilyn Kritzman, Faculty Senate President

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Faculty Senate President Marilyn Kritzman

Welcome Remarks and 2020-21 Council Charges

Faculty Senate President Marilyn Kritzman provided opening remarks. She noted that the Faculty Senate is working on compliance with the open meetings act using appropriate technology. The Faculty Senate Executive Board has been meeting weekly all summer to comply with needs and requirements to ensure faculty participation. She is requesting an agenda scheduling committee that includes council officers, Kinzy and possibly Byrd-Jacobs to ensure efficiency. She also views the RPC charges as fluid and invited the council to discuss them to ensure that creative activities are well represented in addition to research, and that the priorities are clear. Election processes and succession plans are encouraged. She noted that WMU-AAUP works with wages, salaries and working conditions and Faculty Senate is focused on shared governance.

Election of Officers

It was moved by DeFulio, seconded by Steuer, to elect Arugaslan as chair, despite his absence. The motion carried unanimously. It was moved by DeFulio, seconded by Coryn, to elect Carr as vice chair. The motion carried unanimously. The election of secretary was postponed to the next meeting.

Acceptance of the Agenda

It was moved by Steuer, seconded by Venter, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

It was moved by Hadley, seconded by Byrd-Jacobs, to approve the minutes of 13 February 2020 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of University Administrators

Vice President Terri Kinzy noted that we will miss some departing members. She will provide FY20 research and sponsored program data at the next meeting. COVID-19 has created a slowdown in granting and research expenditures. Bonnie Gabriel will be providing analysis and project management assistance in the Office of Research and Innovation replacing Robyn Boyle and will handle Faculty Research Travel Fund, and Publication of Papers and Exhibition of Creative Works. Last year's submissions were up, even during COVID-19. Kinzy noted the budget cuts and personnel changes in ORI. Fewer staff are employed in animal facility and work is being done by graduate students. ORI managed the campus return plans. She believes that the plan is working well.

Discussion of the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund included significantly reduced FRTF and PPP&E expenses due to COVID-19 as travel was not allowed last year and meetings went virtual. These funds will be cut this year because the University is still on a travel ban. The \$156,421.92 not spent will be allowed as carryover, and will be supplemented under a lower level of funding of \$300,000 for \$456,421.92 total. Staffing for support of these programs has been undercut by Reduction in Force and so ORI staff are asking for only one round of SFSA this year. It was determined Support for Faculty Scholars Award would be held once with a deadline of November 30 and selection at the January RPC meeting. The Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award will

be delayed one month and some of the schedule will be compressed for one year only.

FRACASF	BUDGET	Award Amount
FRTF ¹	\$156,000.00	\$ 800.00
PPP&E ²	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 750.00
SFSA	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
FRACAA	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
DESIGNATED CARRY OVER FOR 2022	\$ 50,421.92	
	\$ 456,421.92	

Dean Christine Byrd-Jacobs reported that the Graduate College has limited in-person hours, by appointment only. Student aid was spared and so student research grants and travel (virtual this year) grants are still available. Faculty reviewers are being sought for these grants. The 2019/2020 funding for graduate students was strong, with 45 research grants and 61 travel grants awarded. Students have a good chance at getting those awards. The Graduate College has focused on student support by awarding 14 Dissertation Completion Fellowships (up from 6 awarded the previous year) so that department GA dollars can be used to attract new students. Additional information is being provided on the Graduate College website on external opportunities for student funding.

Report of Subcommittee

The report of the Research Screening Subcommittee was postponed until the next meeting.

Unfinished Business

The Memorandum of Action was sent to the WMU-AAUP. The revision was largely a change to a new template and new dates as well as use of recordings rather than transcription of misconduct reviews. The AAUP has not responded to Arugaslan yet. Kinzy noted that the old policy is still in force until this is accepted. This was sent to AAUP because of concerns regarding its compliance to the contract. Kritzman noted that she will work with everyone to try and get this resolved. Arugaslan will work with her on this during the coming days.

New Business

ORI cannot handle two offerings of the SFSA; discussion was held regarding offering SFSA only once this coming academic year. Discussion ensued regarding the timing of the SFSA and FRACAA so that individuals can take advantage of opportunities. Kinzy would like to avoid overlap of the period between advertisement and the submission deadline, when questions arise, and assistance is required for applicants. Discussion also included when was a good time in the semester as a due date for faculty. Questions included whether the travel suspension may be lifted and funds available for travel. FRTF can be used for virtual meetings. A three to five-year problem is anticipated. SFSA decisions will be made at the January meeting. The motion carried unanimously. Discussion ensued on the division of funding for the different programs: FRTF, PPP&E, SFSA, FRACAA. It was noted that the application levels are unknown. It was moved by DeFulio and seconded by Arugaslan that the allocation be set for FRTF at \$156,000; PPP&E at \$30,000; SFSA at \$40,000; and FRACAA at \$180,000. It was moved by DeFulio and seconded by Carr that November 30 be the SFSA deadline and move FRACAA forward a month. The motion carried.

Announcements

Steuer asked that people communicate with their library liaisons regarding material holdings changes and to inform them if there are concerns.

Adjournment

It was moved by DeFulio, seconded by Kinzy, to adjourn the meeting at 4:26 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval

Submitted by Susan Steuer, Acting Secretary

Minutes approved this eighth day of October 2020.