

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE  
Research Policies Council  
Minutes of 12 November 2020**

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Research Council was called to order at 2:34 p.m. on 12 November 2020, via Webex video conferencing by chair Onur Arugaslan.

**Roll Call**

**Members in Attendance:** Onur Arugaslan, Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Steven Carr, Chris Coryn, Robert Wall Emerson, Wanda Hadley, David Huffman, Terri Kinzy, Heather Petcovic, Melissa Rajter (Graduate Student Association), Jessica Rocheleau (Graduate Student Association), Susan Steuer, Andre Venter

**Members Absent:** Paul Solomon,

**Ex Officio Members in Attendance:** Manuel Bautista, Anthony DeFulio

**Quorum**

A quorum was present.

**Acceptance of the Agenda**

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

**Approval of the Minutes**

An amendment was made to indicate Steuer as a member of the council. It was moved by Kinzy, seconded by Hadley, to approve the minutes of 8 October 2020 as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

**Reports of Officers**

Chair Arugaslan urged faculty to contribute the minimum \$20 faculty fee to the Faculty Senate for its annual support.

DeFulio noted that the Executive Board agreed to remove charge #7 since there are not any policies to be reviewed this academic year. an issue with the council charges. He stated that to change the name of the council, as was suggested at the last meeting, would require an amendment of the Faculty Senate Constitution, therefore since a Constitutional amendment was recently done the Executive Board will wait to bring that recommendation to the full Senate until a later date. DeFulio has working on soliciting two additional council members (Humanities and Aviation). Kinzy inquired if Aviation faculty living in Florida would be precluded. Additionally, she will forward contact information to DeFulio for the University Center for the Humanities leadership for recruitment. The limit of members was discussed, perhaps with a view to having members from other areas in the University join. The possibility of at-large members was discussed. DeFulio will research the exact requirements of membership. DeFulio brought forward charge #8 of diversity and equity inclusion. Rather than addressing that charge through a one-time activity, he suggested that these considerations be involved in every action taken by the council. Changes specifically to address this charge could also be considered, but it would be as an ongoing consideration. Further discussion of this topic will be added to the next meeting's agenda.

**Reports of University Administrators**

Vice President for Research and Innovation Terri Kinzy reported that tomorrow at noon she will host a town hall meeting. It will be a dialogue about fostering research at WMU. On 1 December, recipients for named professorship will be disclosed. A small fund will be set up for replacing equipment used for research and scholarship. The funding will be piloted in fall with a view to having another round in the spring. First quarter data for submissions and awards is in. Submission numbers were down from the prior year, but dollar amounts were not down as much. The number of awards is lower, but the total dollars awarded is up (31%). Expenditures are down. Bautista noted that programs and missions across many agencies are generally delayed by about six months. Arugaslan questioned the FRTF numbers but

Kinzy noted that there has essentially been none. Venter asked about the new equipment replacement program and whether it would cover things like gases that are quite expensive. Kinzy indicated that right now it would not cover service contracts and consumables. Focus will be on equipment that is used by multiple people rather than equipment used by a single person.

Graduate College Dean Christine Byrd-Jacobs reported that student travel grants are soon to be reviewed. Ten grant applications were received this round as well as 19 research grant applications. Some weekly dissertation writing circles are starting. The current Responsible Conduct of Research course taken by all graduate students will not work after 31 December as it uses Flash, so it will move to CITI modules. This is desirable because in some cases in the past, the RCR did not satisfy the requirements of some agencies so CITI was also required. Dean Byrd-Jacobs is working with the Graduate Studies Council to allow co-chairs of theses and dissertation committees to include emeritus faculty, WMED faculty, and faculty with equally strong interest in a student.

### **Reports of Subcommittees**

Bautista provided the report of the Research Screening Subcommittee that included how it is generally hard to find enough people to fill the screening committee. He considered recent awardees as potential members by directly encouraging them to serve on the committee. He has talked to Kinzy regarding hosting the FRACAA meeting for future proponents on 7 December 2020. An email will soon be distributed asking for volunteers to serve on the screening committee.

### **Unfinished Business**

Bautista reported that new submissions for FRACAAA are being planning for December.

Arugaslan noted that the SFSA policy needs to be clarified. DeFulio tried to find an historic MOA about SFSA policies, but apart from the one that created SFSA, he was unable to find one. Any clarifications would be made to the first MOA. A future MOA might include revisions involving FRACAA. Kinzy shared some suggestions with DeFulio. Kinzy also noted that an MOA is for setting out the over-arching intent of the fund, but procedures can be changed without altering an MOA. It needs to be thoughtful about what needs clarification and how to do it (e.g. policy versus procedures considerations).

Arugaslan put forward MOA-19/09: Revision of the Research Misconduct Policy. It was moved by DeFulio, seconded by Venter, to approve MOA-19/08. The motion passed unanimously. Kinzy requested that that the approved MOA be directed to the University Policy Committee before it is sent to the full Senate.

Vice President Kinzy indicated that the conflict of interest policy was going to be brought to the council at today's meeting, but it needed an additional review to ensure that it conforms to policies and requirements from federal agencies. A final version will be distributed for the next meeting.

### **New Business**

Vice President Kinzy brought forward FRACAA Winners Poster Requirement at spring Convocation. In the last two years, faculty with FRACAA awards produced posters to be displayed at convocation. However, it would be difficult this year with the virtual Convocation. Bautista suggested having faculty create e-posters, with a message going out congratulating faculty who have completed their award and done their poster, thus encouraging other faculty to apply for FRACAA in the future. He also noted that FRACAA should weigh early career faculty more heavily as well as try to increase diversity in awardees. He is also attempting to obtain data on correlating FRACAA awards with later external submissions and awards. Kinzy thought the awardees could record a short presentation or vignette that could be highlighted during convocation in a virtual manner rather than posters. Steuer indicated that the library could offer permanent archiving of such artifacts. Petcovic gave an example of the use of Webex and an early upload of posters that students created for a series of short talks with an audience.

### **Announcements**

Steuer indicated that library week went well, there was good attendance at the synchronous and asynchronous events.

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Carr, seconded by Venter, to adjourn the meeting at 3:48 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

The Research Policies Council will meet next on 10 December 2020 via Webex at 2:30 p.m.

**Approval**

Submitted by Robert Wall Emerson, Secretary

Minutes approved this tenth day of December 2020.