

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
Research Policies Council
Minutes of 14 January 2021**

Prior to the start of the meeting, Kinzy shared the 12 SFSA awards applications, totaling \$23,184.75. A total budget of \$40,000 is available. Discussion was held on the merits of each application. Decisions were made and votes taken on awarding funds. It was voted to fund 10 of the 12 submissions for a total of \$19,184.75 in award monies.

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Research Council was called to order at 3:02 p.m. on 14 January 2021, via Webex video conferencing by chair Onur Arugaslan.

Roll Call

Members in Attendance: Onur Arugaslan, Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Steven Carr, Chris Coryn, Martha Councell-Vargas, Wanda Hadley, David Huffman, Terri Kinzy, Heather Petcovic, Melissa Rajter, Jessica Rocheleau, Susan Steuer, Andre Venter, Robert Wall Emerson

Members Absent: Lori Brown, Paul Solomon

Ex Officio Members in Attendance: Manuel Bautista, Anthony DeFulio

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Acceptance of the Agenda

Since the Dean of the Graduate College coming to the meeting late due to a prior commitment her report was moved later on the agenda. It was moved by Coryn, seconded by Carr, to accept the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

It was moved by Hadley, seconded by Venter, to approve the minutes of 10 December 2020 as provided. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Arugaslan did not provide a report.

DeFulio did not provide a report.

Reports of Standing Committee

Bautista provided the report of the Research Screening Committee. He shared that there are unspent monies from his project that had issues with the spending as was desired, given the short time constraints. Discussion was held regarding how to help researchers keep track of expenditures so that such situations do not arise. It was recommended that training materials be created to track budgets/expenditures and indication of personnel that are responsible for tracking these details. Bautista will draft and initial document.

Reports of University Representative(s)

Vice President for Research and Innovation Terri Kinzy shared the second quarter research data. Submissions are down 17.5% year to date while the number of awards are also down. Awarded dollars are up (due to a couple of large grants). Expenditures are down compared to last year, generally due to faculty being cautious, restrictions in travel, and some challenges in purchasing equipment. In the first round of ORI equipment repair grants there were \$75,000 worth of requests. Deans have provided monies to support the program so another round of equipment repair grants will be possible in spring. WMU has is planning to replace the grant proposal management system, the PAF system. A Request for Proposals was distributed and there are four finalists. Move will soon be made to an electronic

Institutional Review Board (IRB) system and the replacement of the PAF. Applications for presidential innovation professorships are still being accepted.

Unfinished Business

Chair Arugaslan introduced MOA-19/09: Revision of the Research Misconduct Policy. DeFulio indicated that a revised clean copy of the final version of the MOA has been provided. It was moved by Venter, seconded by Carr, to approve MOA-19/09 as presented. The motion carried.

Vice President Kinzy summarized the goal of the FRACAA Memorandum of Action is to clean up the language, consistently addressing each program, removing the award amounts as those are specified by RPC each year, and reorganizing all of the programs in one place to reduce confusion. Bautista indicated that a new version of the document has not yet been drafted. Venter noted that there was a committee working on it but it has been flagging lately, especially since it has been operating for many years with little impact. Kinzy will have ORI craft a draft version of the FRACASF MOA, working off of what has already been done by Venter and Councill-Vargas.

Vice President Kinzy will have a draft of the Conflict of Interest Policy available for review at the next meeting.

Chair Arugaslan began the discussion of a name change for RPC. DeFulio suggested keeping the term "faculty" out of the name. Suggestions included:

- Research and Creative Activities Council
- Research and Creative Scholarship Council
- Advocacy Council for Research
- Research Advocacy Council
- Discovery Advocacy Council

It was moved by DeFulio, seconded by Councill-Vargas, to recommend changing the name of the Research Policies Council to the Research and Creative Scholarship Council. The motion carried.

New Business

DeFulio led discussion of Charge #8: *Identify approaches and methods used to increase civility and respect in order to create a safe environment both within the Faculty Senate and the University.* Venter suggested inviting the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to a RPC meeting for this discussion. DeFulio and Arugaslan will make the appropriate invitation(s).

Reports of University Representative(s), Cont.

Graduate College Dean Christine Byrd-Jacobs discussed efforts of the college that included the following:

- Sending regular blast emails to graduate students on funding opportunities, internal and external
- Starting a digital marketing campaign that will last for six months using social media to spread the word out about WMU graduate education (not specific programs).
- Carry forward funds would be used for advertisements.

When asked for enrollment trends Byrd-Jacobs reported that applications are up a little, admits are down a little, and registration are down 6%. These statistics are not as bad as had been projected.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

It was moved by Bautista, seconded by DeFulio, to adjourn the meeting at 4:14 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Research Policies Council will meet next on 14 January 2021 via Webex at 2:30 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Robert Wall Emerson, Secretary

Minutes approved this eleventh day of February 2021.