

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
Research Policies Council
Minutes of 11 February 2021**

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Research Council was called to order at 2:33 p.m. on 11 February 2021, via Webex video conferencing by chair Onur Arugaslan.

Roll Call

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

Members Absent: Chris Coryn, Paul Solomon

Ex Officio Members in Attendance: Manuel Bautista, Anthony DeFulio

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Acceptance of the Agenda

A correction in spelling was made to the agenda. It was moved by Hadley, seconded by Kinzy, to accept the agenda as amended. The motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

A correction in spelling of a name and a date was made to the minutes. It was moved by Hadley, seconded by Carr, to approve the minutes of 14 January 2021 as amended. The motion carried.

Reports of Officers

Chair Arugaslan noted that Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jennifer Bott will be attending the March RPC meeting.

DeFulio did not provide a report.

Reports of Standing Committee

Bautista provided the report of the Research Screening Committee. He reviewed the topic of tracking expenditure statements for external grants. Bautista shared a draft of a document to recommend that Vice President Kinzy via the Office for Research and Innovation develop a policy and general method for faculty to track and plan their expenditures on grants and contracts. It was moved by Bautista, seconded by Carr, to provide the document to the Faculty Senate Executive Board for approval before sending it on to ORI. The motion carried.

Reports of University Representative(s)

Vice President for Research and Innovation Terri Kinzy reviewed submissions and spending to date on FRACAA, FRTF, PPP&E, and SFSA. Expenditures are low, indicating that there will be carryover to next year. Notes were made about a federal mandate for a review of lab spaces and what they are used for in connection with F&A calculations. A new internal program is being rolled out to encourage funding of collaborative research endeavors. Applications can be made for up to \$100 thousand for the team with up to \$250 thousand in equipment. An equipment upgrades and repair pilot funded \$70 thousand in total for fall. In the FY2019 NSF HERD survey data, research expenditures went up 20%, bringing WMU back to 2014 levels.

Graduate College Dean Christine Byrd-Jacobs presented on the 3-minute thesis efforts. In the last year, more dissertations were submitted than in each of the last 11 years. Digital marketing efforts are ongoing.

Unfinished Business

Vice President Kinzy stated in relation to the FRACASF Memorandum of Action there is a need to consolidate several MOAs to create an accurate document. ORI would like to be provided a WORD version of the MOA in order to modify it accordingly before presenting it to RPC.

Vice President Kinzy noted that the Conflict of Interest Policy is being updated to be in compliance with federal requirements and does not have an associated MOA.

Ex Officio DeFulio reported that the Executive Board referred MOA-19/09: Revision of the Research Misconduct Policy to the Professional Concerns Committee leadership for review. A meeting of interested parties is being scheduled by the Faculty Senate staff before the MOA will go to the full Senate.

Ex Officio DeFulio stated that 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) has not yet been addressed by the Executive Board.

New Business

DeFulio noted that the RPC has reviewed all the charges except for Charge #1: *Review the scope and description of the council's role and assess the effectiveness of the council's practices. Address any continuing or outstanding issues or initiatives as directed by the Faculty Senate Executive Board.* Council members were asked to consider whether there are any activities or efforts that the council needs to undertake in order to satisfy this charge. Bautista raised the issue of whether there should be a new vehicle for the council to communicate and/or interact with the Graduate College. Discussion was held which included whether a way of encouraging collaboration across committees could be developed as well as a way to use this sort of collaboration to encourage research. The student representatives will initiate a discussion with GSA and report at the next meeting.

Announcements

Chair Arugaslan reported that David Huffman has been selected to represent RPC on the Academic Affairs Institutional Interdisciplinarity Team.

Adjournment

It was moved by Carr, seconded by Huffman, to adjourn the meeting at 3:46 p.m. The motion carried. The Research Policies Council will meet next on 4 March 2021 via Webex at 2:30 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Robert Wall Emerson, Secretary

Minutes approved this eleventh day of March 2021.