

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL  
Minutes of 9 September 2010

**Members present:** Osama Abudayyeh, Sime Curkovic, Eileen Evans, Lin Foulk, Gene Freudenburg, Tim Greene, Dan Litynski, Betty McCain (for Jan Van Der Kley), Lisa Minnick, Brandy Pratt, Vladimir Risukhin, Mary Ann Stark, Stephen Tasko, Steven Ziebarth **Also present:** Janice Anderson, Faculty Senate Office; Paula Kohler, associate vice president for research

Chair Steven Ziebarth called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes of 13 May 2010**

A motion was made by Tasko and seconded by Evans to approve the minutes of 13 May 2010. Motion passed.

**Reports of Officers**

*Office of Vice President for Research —Daniel Litynski and Paula Kohler*

OVPR has continued to work towards the institution's external funding goal of \$60 million. Litynski distributed "WMU External Funding Expenditures and F&A Recovery by Year." F&A Recovery has improved by almost \$600,000 this year. Several OVPR staff members are retiring in January 2011, including Will Emmert, Walt Worthy, and Vicky Janson.

OVPR is working to organize the 240 pages of its website to make it more user-friendly.

The office has been working over the past year to automate the buck sheet process. It's in the BETA stage and will be completed soon. It will include a database of past buck sheets and will include electronic signature capabilities. It will be set-up more like an interview to allow for more efficient completion. Workshops will be scheduled for each college in the next few months to introduce faculty to this new format. Announcements will be sent to the deans of each college and posted on the OVPR website.

Guest speaker David Bauer, from Bauer Consulting, will be on campus 11-14 October to conduct workshops for faculty and graduate students in research team building and proposal development.

Research and Dessert is scheduled on 22 October from 1 to 4 p.m. this year in the Fetzer Center to encourage collaboration amongst researchers. OVPR is still collecting inter-disciplinary topics to be discussed at the event. Flyers and posters will be distributed.

Some display cases in the Bernhard Center will once again be used to feature faculty research and scholarship on campus. OVPR is working through the associate deans to get suggestions for projects to include in the cases, which doesn't necessarily have to be funded research.

*Graduate College — Gene Freudenburg, Interim Dean*

Freudenburg introduced himself and is excited to work in the Graduate College and with RPC.

*Council Chair—Steven Ziebarth*

Tabled his report to Continued Business.

**Informational Items**

*Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs—Tim Greene*

The Provost's Office will soon recognize emerging scholars on campus. The office is working on implementing charges outlined in the Academic Plan, which was created last year. A Center for the Humanities is forming on campus and the kick-off meeting is 23 September from 3 to 5 p.m. in room 157 in the Bernhard Center.

*Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness—Eileen Evans*

Eleven peer reviewers from the Higher Learning Commission will visit campus 18-20 October. Evans distributed bookmarks with key points regarding the HLC visit and the cover of the WMU self-study report. More information about the visit may be found at: <http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/accreditation/hlc.html> The on-campus reviewers will gather evidence through the self-study, through a resource room in the Fetzer Center, and through meetings with several campus administrators and staff as well as legislators, members of the board of trustees, and parents of students. Open meetings for students, faculty, and staff will also take place to verify what is presented in the self-study. Evans also distributed a list of possible questions that an HLC reviewer could ask of faculty, staff, and students. A final report will come to the University on 18 December for review and comment. President John Dunn will likely receive a letter in April or May 2011 noting the results and whether or not follow-up is needed. Greene commented that the RPC should consider "where do we want to go with research as a university?"

**Continued Business**

*Conflict of Interest Policy Report*

Alan Wuosmaa and Steven Ziebarth met with Mike Sharer in OVPR in June to discuss the Conflict of Interest Policy at the University. They decided three members from RPC (one or two executive members plus one or two regular

members) could assist him in reviewing these few cases that arise each year. Kohler recommended that a procedure be written to be considered by RPC and members of OVPR to help Sharer handle these cases.

*Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund Allocations*

Kohler distributed the FRACASF expenditures for the past two years. \$465,000 was the total amount of the total program in FY08-09 and FY09-10. Posters have been distributed and workshops have been scheduled to help faculty prepare for the Support for Faculty Scholars 30 September deadline. The OVPR website lists faculty who have been supported with these funds and the titles of their funded projects. It was recommended now that four SFSA rounds have taken place, an analysis of those awarded take place and a report distributed to the faculty and posted on the website. Evans made a motion that Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award be increased to \$200,000 and SFSA decrease to \$50,000. Motion passed.

*Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award Chair Appointment*

The executive officers will set up a meeting with OVPR officers to identify a chair for FRACAA. Nominations are still being accepted.

*RPC Events for Upcoming Year*

SFSA applications will be received by 30 September and distributed to the review committee shortly thereafter. With Walt Worthy's retirement, someone will need to step up to help organize the spring Research Day in the spring. No council charges have been submitted by the Faculty Senate Executive Board yet, but OVPR will bring items for the council to consider at a future meeting.

**New Business**

No new business.

**Adjournment**

Ziebarth made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lin Foulk, College of Fine Arts Representative for RPC