

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL  
Minutes of 2 December 2010

**Members present:** Osama Abudayyeh, Sime Curkovic, Gene Freudenburg, Tim Greene, Carrie Leatherman, Daniel Litynski, Lisa Minnick, Vladimir Risukhin, Mary Ann Stark, Stephen Tasko, Betty McCain (for Jan Van Der Kley), Alan Wuosmaa, Steve Ziebarth.

**Guests:** Steve Bertman, Chair, Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award Committee; Gina Betcher, Research and Sponsored Programs; Paula Kohler, Associate Vice President for Research; Walt Worthy, Research and Sponsored Programs

Council Chair Steve Ziebarth called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

**Approval of the Minutes of 14 October 2010**

A motion was made by Minnick and seconded by Tasko to approve the minutes of the 14 October 2010 meeting. Motion passed.

**Agenda for 2 December 2010**

The agenda was accepted.

**Reports of Officers**

*Graduate College Office – Gene Freudenburg, Interim Dean*

The report requested by the Provost's Office on the Future of the Graduate College has been completed and posted on the Provost's Office web page. The report includes both potential short- and long-term changes to the Graduate College. The provost invites email or other written feedback in response to the document. This feedback should be provided by late January to early February of 2011.

A report was given from the enrollment forecast meeting. Graduate applications are up from 158 to 169 PhDs, and from 453 to 536 Masters applicants compared to the same time last year. Registration for the Spring 2011 semester increased by 3% overall compared to last year, and main campus enrollment has increased by more than 9%.

A snapshot of Graduate College external funding was distributed, with a history of such funding since 1999. External funding for 2009-10 has decreased significantly compared to earlier years and there have been no external grants applied for in the past five years. The goal of the interim dean is to determine how this situation can be improved and to identify potential external funding opportunities.

*Office for Vice President for Research – Daniel Litynski and Paula Kohler*

Litynski reported on the Higher Learning Commission visit, which was productive. OVPR is engaged in strategic planning with a goal of achieving \$60M in external funding. One focus will be on individuals and strategic hires as some of the 25 new faculty lines that are planned for the next five years. These hires may be aimed at established senior, as well as junior faculty. The possibility of establishing collaborations, centers, or research groups is being investigated. Facilities investments include a new \$100M Natural Sciences building, as well as a \$50M improvement to the Parkview Campus.

Several retirements are upcoming in the OVPR, including compliance officer Victoria Janson, Walt Worthy, Wil Emmert and Barbara Wygant. Radiation Safety Officer Jim Center will be on army reserve duty and will be temporarily replaced by John Center. Searches are underway for a research contract administrator (interviews this week) and an administrative assistant.

Litynski also discussed government initiatives ("earmarks") with an analysis of programs to emerge in January including a list of metrics to determine success.

Kohler reminded the council that the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA) deadline is 3 December. Disappointment was expressed on the response to the Support for Faculty Scholar Award program with a small number of applicants, however the unspent funds were transferred to FRACAA where four additional proposals were funded. RPC members were encouraged to remind faculty about the SFSA deadline and program.

Kohler reported that the electronic Proposal Approval Form (bucksheet) is now up and running. Feedback has been good from early users. Both paper and electronic versions of the PAF can be used until 7 March 2011, when the paper version will no longer be used. OVPR has also launched its revised website.

*Council Chair – Steven Ziebarth*

Ziebarth combined his comments with continued business (see below).

**Continued Business**

*Support for Faculty Scholar Awards Comments – Steven Ziebarth*

Ziebarth reported issues with two SFSA proposals from the last submission cycle; one proposal had lost some pages, but was essentially a Final Preparation and Publication of Papers, and Exhibition of Creative Works (PPP&E) proposal and funded by the chair. The other issue dealt with a complaint from one applicant whose proposal was rejected, extended feedback was provided to the applicant by Ziebarth, however the proposal was not funded. The possibility of an appeals process was discussed but no such procedure was suggested. It will be considered at the next round of SFSA funding next semester.

*Discussion with Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award  
Committee Chair – Steve Bertman*

The new chair of the FRACAA review committee, Steve Bertman, introduced himself to the council and gave his background and view of the FRACAA program. Kohler described the FRACAA review process. Minnick asked if it were possible to recruit additional reviewers so as to lessen the workload for the review committee. Kohler and Worthy agreed to look into the issue, and Ziebarth suggested that the FRACAA committee consider this and return with a recommendation.

*Reports on Upcoming RPC Events for this Coming Year – Committee Chairs*

Stark reported on the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual WMU Research and Creative Activities Poster Day to be held on 15 April 2011. The registration deadline is 25 February, and graduate students are being encouraged to sign up. Awards of \$200 each will be given for the top 15 posters. Judges need to be recruited and the funding needs to be organized. Kohler suggested combining an additional “Research and Dessert” day with the Research and Creative Activities Day.

*Progress on Council Charges for this Year*

Ziebarth reported that good progress was being made on the council charges for this year.

**New Business**

*New National Science Foundation Ethics in Research Training Requirement –  
Paula Kohler*

Kohler reported that OVPR is working on implementation of the NSF Section 7009 regulations that require training and oversight in the Responsible Ethical Conduct of Research for all NSF funded grants. According to NSF, all graduate students, post doctoral researchers, and staff supported by the grant must receive ethics training. WMU will also require PIs to have this training. This requirement extends to all student or postdoctoral personnel on subcontracts funded by the grant. This policy takes effect 10 January 2011. OVPR developed the WMU policy and procedures for compliance; the training will be done using the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) program. PIs have the choice of which courses to require (available at [citiprogram.org](http://citiprogram.org)). The WMU policy is that all the required training be completed within 30 days of grant monies being received, to be repeated every five years.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Alan Wousmaa, Vice Chair