

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL  
Minutes of 13 January 2011

**Members present:** Osama Abudayyeh, Chris Coryn, Sime Curkovic, Eileen Evans (for Provost Tim Greene), Lin Foulk, Gene Freudenburg, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Paula Kohler (for Vice President Daniel Litynski), Carrie Leatherman, Lisa Minnick, Vladimir Risukhin, Stephen Tasko, Jan Van Der Kley (for Vice President Lowell Rinker), Alan Wuosmaa, Steven Ziebarth

**Also present:** Steve Bertman, Chair, Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award Committee

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

**Approval of Minutes of 2 December 2010**

A motion was made by Foulk and seconded by Leatherman to approve the minutes of 2 December 2010. Motion passed.

**Acceptance of Agenda for 13 January 2011**

A motion was made by Evans and seconded by Wuosmaa to accept the agenda of 13 January 2011. Motion passed.

**Reports**

*Council Chair—Steven Ziebarth*

The Support for Faculty Scholar Award (SFSA) committee will meet at noon on 10 February to review applications submitted at the end of January. The May RPC meeting has been moved from 12 May to 19 May. The meeting room will be announced soon.

*Interim Dean of the Graduate College—Gene Freudenburg*

Freudenburg distributed handouts, which compared 2011 registration with 2010. The number of applications received at the Masters level is up 21.51 percent; at the Doctoral level the applications are down 2.4 percent.

Deadlines for the Graduate Student Research and Travel Funds program are coming up: 18 January and 15 March. The committee has distributed \$40,000 so far in this highly competitive program.

Applications for Dissertation Completion Fellowships are due 15 February for those students who are in the final stages of writing their dissertation. Nominations for Graduate Research and Creative Scholar Awards and Graduate

Teaching Effectiveness Awards are due 25 February. The Gwen Frostic Doctoral Fellowships are due 9 March. More information can be found on the Graduate College Web page.

Freudenburg distributed a proposal by WMU Libraries to make available electronically WMU dissertations and Master's theses. Currently they only have dissertations in electronic form (Master's theses are only in paper form). RPC asked if the documents will be stored in a format that can't be altered (for example, pdfa is an archival version of pdf files); if the documents will be stored in a format that we can read 20 or 30 years from now; and how the Graduate College will prepare and train those students who are not technologically savvy to format the dissertation in a digital format correctly. Freudenburg assured the committee that these issues are being seriously considered by WMU Libraries. Moving to electronic, searchable dissertations and theses is in line with what other universities are doing.

*Office for Vice President for Research—Paula Kohler*

Kohler distributed the report: "Value of External Funding Submissions and Awards: Four-Year Summary." Although external submissions are down, external funding awards are up. Last year externally funded expenditures saw an increase and recovered (through facilities and administrative) the highest amount ever. RPC did a study in 2004 which looked at F&A distributions and this is the current distribution: 10% to principal investigator, 10% to department, 20% to college, 20% to university general fund, 30% to OVPR, 5% to WMU Research Foundations, 5% to Research Investment Fund.

Funding opportunities: Undergraduate Research Excellence Award (due 30 January and 30 September). SFSA workshops will be posted on the website.

Hannover Research and Elsevir will be here in two weeks to advise the university on where to look for future funding opportunities throughout the university.

**Continued Business**

*Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA) Update—Steve Bertman, Committee Chair*

Twenty-nine total proposals were received this year: 14 quantitative, 13 qualitative, 2 creative arts, which is the lowest total in the 40 years of the program. The FRACAA Review panel will meet on 14 January. No single reviewer will review more than seven applications this year. In mid-March the committee will re-convene and the awards will be announced by 20 April. Bertman distributed statistics which chart the history of FRACAA submissions. The general consensus amongst RPC is that both FRACAA and SFSA internal funding resources are being underutilized and the committee speculated why.

Ziebarth will follow up with the Faculty Senate to request that Bertman be an official ex-officio member.

*Report on Poster Day—Mary Ann Stark and Chris Coryn*

The committee is just getting started in contacting past FRACAA recipients and student presenters. This year there is no limit on how many projects can be nominated by each department. The committee is currently recruiting and nominating judges (each RPC member was asked to ask a colleague if they would like to serve. The commitment is only about an hour. Nominations are due 25 February). This year's date is 15 April from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

**New Business**

No new business.

**Adjournment**

Ziebarth made the motion to adjourn the meeting; Risukhin seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

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