

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 10 February 2011

Members present: Osama Abudayyeh, Chris Coryn, Sime Curkovic, Eileen Evans (for Provost T. Greene), Lin Foulk, Gene Freudenburg, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Carrie Leatherman, Lisa Minnick, Vladimir Risukhin, Jan Van Der Kley (for Vice President L. Rinker), Dan Litynski, Alan Wuosmaa, Steven Ziebarth

Also present: Steve Bertman, Chair, Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award Committee; Allison Green, Office of the Vice President for Research; Paula Kohler, associate vice president for research; Walter Worthy, Research and Sponsored Programs; Rob Eversole and Julia Mays, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

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

Approval of Minutes of 13 January 2011

A motion was made by Evans and seconded by Ghantasala to approve the minutes of 13 January 2011. Motion passed.

Approval of Agenda for 10 February 2011

A motion was made by Foulk and seconded by Van Der Kley to approve the agenda of 10 February 2011. Motion passed.

Reports

Council Chair – Steven Ziebarth

The first reading of a bylaw amendment to add the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA) chair to the membership of RPC as an ex-officio member occurred at the 03 February Faculty Senate meeting. The second reading and vote is set for 10 March.

Office for Vice President for Research – Daniel Litynski

Litynski announced many changes in OVPR staff. He introduced Allison Green, who is taking over for Walt Worthy, and Julia Mays, the new compliance coordinator, who is taking over for Vicki Janson.

Elsevier is working with OVPR to help identify areas of research strength in the university and to help train faculty/staff in writing grants. Hannover grants/research is another company doing research studies on behalf of the university. This company is working with OVPR to assist with mentoring, grant writing, and finding funding sources for the university.

Interim Dean of the Graduate College – Gene Freudenburg

Freudenburg distributed posters announcing “The Life Cycle of an NSF Proposal,” to be presented by Daniel Rabinovich (program director, Division of Chemistry, NSF) on 21 February and “Two Talks on Plagiarism,” by Miguel Roig (professor of Psychology, St. John’s University) on 16 March.

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. The last deadline for the Graduate Student Research and Travel Funds is coming up on 15 March. On 28 April the Graduate College will host an event in the Bernhard Center to recognize those who receive awards. More information on all of these programs can be found on the Graduate College Web page.

Continued Business

Support for Faculty Scholar Award Report – Steve Ziebarth

RPC received a record number of proposals (thirty) from a diversity of campus departments of which 25 were funded. Wuosmaa moved and Minnick seconded that the remaining SFSA money be moved to the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award.

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

No report.

Report on Poster Day – Mary Ann Stark and Chris Coryn

Fifteen nominations have been received so far (thirty are expected) and they are due 25 February. Twelve judges have volunteered so far and fifteen are needed. Kohler asked for suggestions for ways to highlight more faculty research across campus. Ideas discussed include inviting more faculty to present posters as part of Poster Day or Research and Dessert, highlight more faculty research in the OVPR newsletter, or feature researchers on the WMU or OVPR website. OVPR is seeking more suggestions in this area.

New Business

Report from the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee – Rob Eversole and Julia Mays

Eversole assured the RPC that the university is in compliance. The facility provides space for animal researchers on campus and researchers at the innovation center. A goal of the facility is to reduce the number of animals used (it has already been reduced ten-fold in the last fifteen years). The center provides

training and assistance for faculty and students. They are very concerned about animal distress and will reject proposals that may cause too much distress on the animals. The compliance reports are available through OVPR and the OVPR website (click on the "compliance" link).

Emerging Scholars – Eileen Evans, Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness

The program is now in its sixth year. Evans distributed the guidelines for the award. In March, RPC should identify three faculty members who will serve as reviewers for the award. RPC members are asked to bring three names to the March meeting.

Worthy announced that twenty-four students submitted proposals for the Undergraduate Research Excellence Award.

Adjournment

Minnick made the motion to adjourn the meeting; Abudayyeh seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

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