

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 14 April 2011

Members present: Osama Abudayyeh, Steve Bertman, Chris Coryn, Sime Curkovic, Lin Foulk, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Daniel Litynski, Betty McCain (for Jan Van Der Kley), Lisa Minnick, Julie Nemire (for Gene Freudenburg), Brandy Pratt, Vladimir Risukhin, Mary Ann Stark, Stephen Tasko, Alan Wuosmaa, Steven Ziebarth

Also present: Allison Green, Office of the Vice President for Research, and Paula Kohler, Associate Vice President for Research

Council Chair Steven Ziebarth called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of 10 March 2011

A motion was made by Green and seconded by Abudayyeh to approve the minutes of 10 March 2011. Motion passed.

Approval of Agenda for 14 April 2011

A motion was made by Coryn and seconded by Tasko to approve the agenda of 14 April 2011. Motion passed.

Reports

Council Chair – Steven Ziebarth

Ziebarth reminded the council that next month's meeting is May 19. Voting for officers will be on the agenda for the May meeting.

Office for Vice President for Research – Dan Litynski and Paula Kohler

They distributed "External Funding Value of Submissions, Awards, and Expenditures... Through March 31" and several other reports related to Facilities and Administrative (F & A) Recovery.

There are new features for Primary Investigators on the OVPR website. OVPR has been hosting workshops on using the new features, which they will continue in the next academic year. OVPR is also working to connect researchers from across campus by organizing events around particular topics (such as the automotive industry).

Interim Dean of the Graduate College – Julie Nemire (for Gene Freudenburg)

Sixty-six students will be honored at the graduate awards event in the Bernhard Center on 28 April. This event is open to the public. Twelve doctoral students

received fellowships. Sixty research and travel grants were submitted (those decisions will be made at the end of April). In Academic Year 2007-08 there were 112 graduates (which was the largest class). The Graduate College is on track to exceed that number with graduation this June.

Continued Business

Report on Poster Day – Mary Ann Stark and Chris Coryn

April 15 is the 5th annual Research and Poster Day. There are 45 judges and 39 students this year. A graphic design student designed this year's brochure for his senior project. Improvements for next year's Research and Poster Day: nomination solicitations need to go to all graduate faculty instead of just the chairs and those who receive Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award awards should be invited to present at the following year's Research and Poster Day, since presumably the research won't be completed until June.

RPC Chair Ziebarth thanked Coryn, Stark, and Green for their work in organizing this event.

FRACAA Update – Steve Bertman, Committee Chair

Bertman thanked Green for her work in helping to organize FRACAA this year. Submissions were down this year. Of the 29 applications received, 27 met minimal guidelines and were reviewed in the competition; 17 were deemed meritorious enough to be recommended for funding. The success rate for applications was in line with the average since FRACAA started in 1972.

OVPR is looking to improve the workshops hosted next year to increase the number and quality of proposals submitted. One RPC member said her colleague was discouraged by comments received from a FRACAA reviewer regarding her proposal – perhaps someone could check to make sure the feedback is productive and not just negative.

Wuosmaa made the motion and Coryn seconded the \$154,813 proposed to spend on FRACAA. Motion passed.

New Business

No new business.

Adjournment

Ziebarth made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

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