

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL  
Minutes of 19 May 2011

**Members present:** Osama Abudayyeh, Brooks Applegate, Steve Bertman, Martha Councell-Vargas, Gene Freudenburg, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Daniel Litynski, Betty McCain (for Jan Van Der Kley), Lisa Minnick, Vladimir Risukhin, Mary Ann Stark, Stephen Tasko, Alan Wuosmaa, Steven Ziebarth **Also present:** Allison Green, Research and Sponsored Programs.

Council Chair Steven Ziebarth called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes of 14 April 2011**

A motion was made by Tasko and seconded by Councell-Vargas to approve the minutes of 14 April 2011. Motion passed.

**Approval of Agenda for 19 May 2011**

A motion was made by Wuosmaa and seconded by Minnick to approve the agenda of 19 May 2011. Motion passed.

**Reports**

*Council Chair – Steven Ziebarth*

Ziebarth welcomed new members Brooks Applegate, Martha Councell-Vargas, Jim Kiddle, and Mary Ann Stark (re-elected) and thanked the retiring members for their contributions.

*Office of Vice President for Research – Dan Litynski*

Litynski thanked Ziebarth for his leadership of RPC. Litynski reported that there were seven Research Development Award applications received that will be reviewed. A final workshop was presented to last year's RDA recipients. The first workshop for 2011-12 will be held 24 June. New Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award recipients will have an orientation on 24 May. A research magazine will be published on people doing research at WMU. This will be distributed outside the university to interested parties. An annual report to be distributed internally is being prepared. The OVPR is fully staffed after many personnel changes. There are two new resources (one by Hanover and one by Elsevier) that have become available to help researchers in searching, writing and reviewing grants. WMU was invited to join a consortium of universities assembled by Proctor & Gamble that may bring new research collaborations and opportunities.

*Interim Dean of the Graduate College – Gene Freudenburg*

Freudenburg also thanked the council members for their work this year and Ziebarth for his leadership and service. The award event on 28 April was well attended. Students who received teaching and research awards were recognized. During

academic year 2011-12, 191 students submitted research and travel grant applications; 98 were funded. The total funds distributed were just under \$100,000. This was more than last year, as the Graduate Student Advisory Committee contributed an additional \$20,000. The Graduate College also increased its contribution. The composition of the committee that reviews these applications was described and possible improvements in the review process discussed. In April, there were 34 doctoral degrees awarded. There are 32 applications for June graduation. For the academic year 2011-12, there will be a total of 131 doctoral degrees awarded. At the April graduation, 616 received master's degrees. For the academic year, there will be a total of 1334 masters degrees awarded. Fewer students are choosing the thesis option. A Graduate College report will be published in August. There is work underway to formulate an action plan for reviewing graduate programs. Freudenburg will continue in his current role through December 2011. The provost announced that an internal search will be conducted for the dean of the Graduate College.

**Continued Business**

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

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Research and Poster Day was held on 15 April. There were 43 posters presented by graduate students in addition to those by FRACAA recipients. Ziebarth recognized the work of the co-chairs. Green's contribution to the success of the day was acknowledged also.

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

Bertman is working on letters to those who were not awarded funding. Bertman, Paula Kohler and Ziebarth are meeting to revise the FRACAA submission guidelines. This will be reported at the next meeting. One recipient was unable to accept the award. A motion to carry over the unused FRACAA funds to the next year was made by Wuosmaa and seconded by Applegate. Motion passed.

**New Business**

*Recognition of Retiring RPC members*

Ziebarth recognized Chris Coryn and Lin Foulk for their contributions to RPC during their terms of service.

*Election of Officers*

Ziebarth moved and Councell-Vargas seconded the following slate of officers for 2011-12: Applegate as chair, Tasko as vice chair, Stark as secretary. Motion passed.

**Adjournment**

Ziebarth made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Stark