

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 13 October 2011

Present: Brooks Applegate, Osama Abudayyeh, Brynne Belinger (for Eileen Evans), Steve Bertman, Allison Buller, Martha Councell-Vargas, Gene Freudenburg, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Allison Green, Provost Tim Greene, James Kiddle, Carrie Leatherman, Daniel Litynski, Lisa Minnick, Vladimir Risukhin, Mary Ann Stark, Sandy Steinbach, Stephen Tasko.

Absent without substitution: Manuel Bautista and Stephen Newell

Council Chair Brooks Applegate called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Welcome

Applegate welcomed RPC members.

Approval of Agenda for 13 October 2011

A motion was made by Litynski and seconded by Tasko to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of 15 September 2011

A motion was made by Bertman and seconded by Minnick to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Discussion Items

Tim Greene, provost and vice president for academic affairs, addressed several matters of interest to the council.

1. MOA-07/03, Policy on Centers and Institutes, pertaining to the process of approving institutes (which offer academic programs) and centers (which generate knowledge) will be reviewed and revised this year. Both now require approval of curriculum committees. The provost suggested that RPC may be involved in the revised process for centers. The Faculty Senate president is working with the provost on this.
2. A search committee will be formed for an internal search for the dean of the Graduate College. Interim Dean Freudenburg and the provost have worked together to provide a description of the work of the Graduate College that will be helpful in the search for the new dean. It is hoped that the search will be complete and the new dean named by the end of fall 2011.
3. The University Strategic Plan has been posted and some changes on indicators may be made. The plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees in December.

4. Q & A. The provost was asked about the status of the new medical school. He reported that there are many committees actively working (about 300 persons are involved). The new dean of the medical school is actively engaging with the community. The board of directors for the new medical school should be formed by December. The first class should be admitted for fall 2014. There is a research committee for the medical school and Vice President Litynski is a member. Jack Luderer chairs the committee. The provost acknowledged there are many issues yet to be resolved, such as Facilities and Administrative (F&A) Costs, Human Subjects Institutional Review Board process, libraries and holdings, etc. In time a MD/PhD program will be offered. He suggested that the new medical school dean and/or Jack Luderer be invited to a future RPC meeting.

The University Strategic Plan was discussed as it relates to research. Litynski and his team are working on an action plan. Applegate is meeting with the Senate Executive Board on 14 October to discuss some issues pertaining to this.

Reports

Council Chair – Brooks Applegate

No report.

Vice President for Research – Dan Litynski

Litynski distributed and discussed two reports: External funding number of submissions and awards five-year summary (through 30 September 2011), and External funding, value of submissions, awards and expenditures five year summary (through 30 September 2011). Litynski reported that F & A is up. Information about the technology development fund was distributed. The deadline for applications is 9 November 2011. The purpose of this fund is to assist developers to move from discovery to commercialization. There were 28 applications for the undergraduate research excellence award. Those that meet the criteria will receive awards. Litynski reminded members that he is soliciting responses to the questions he sent by email about engaging more research on campus.

Interim Dean of the Graduate College – Gene Freudenburg

Freudenburg reported that Dave Bauer presented two workshops for graduate students. Fifty-one graduate students attended. Freudenburg is meeting on 14 October with directors of graduate programs (this meeting is convened twice a year). Due to advice from a university attorney, the designation of some GA's will be changed to comply with the law. These will take effect in January 2012.

Continued Business

Tasko moved that charge #6 be discussed but that all other discussion items be tabled until the next meeting. Ghantasala seconded the motion, which passed.

Applegate explained the history and purpose of the Research and Creative Activities Day and the role that RPC plays in providing it. Councill-Vargas, Tasko, and Stark offered to work on this event with A. Green, from the Office of the Vice President for Research, and a representative from the Graduate Student Advisory Committee.

New Business

Support for Faculty Scholar Award

Faculty representatives from RPC met prior to the meeting. Fourteen grants were reviewed and two were funded, for a total of almost \$18,000. Applegate encouraged members to let colleagues know that this fund is available and submissions are welcome.

Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award

Bertman provided a list of faculty eligible for serving on the FRACAA screening committee. Eligibility is determined by having external funding and publications in the last five years. He asked members to email suggestions for faculty reviewers to him. There need to be six to eight members to serve in this way.

The next meeting is Thursday, 10 November, at 2:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Tasko made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Risukhin seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Stark