

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 10 November 2011

Members present: Brooks Applegate, Osama Abudayyeh, Monica Lininger, Gene Freudenburg, James Kiddle, Carrie Leatherman, Daniel Litynski, Betty McKain (for Sandy Steinbach), Lisa Minnick, Vladimir Risukhin, Mary Ann Stark, Stephen Tasko.

Absent without substitution: Manuel Bautista, Steve Bertman, Martha Councill-Vargas, Muralidhar Ghantasala **Also present:** Paula Kohler, Associate Vice President for Research

Council Chair Brooks Applegate called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of 13 October 2011

A motion was made by Tasko and seconded by Kiddle to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Approval of Agenda for 10 November 2011

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

Discussion Item

Support for Faculty Scholar Award Appeal Process Review

There was a candidate who asked to review original ratings. Applegate suggested that the guidelines need to be reviewed so the wording is clear about appeals. Reviewers must be cautious about sharing information about individual reviews since it is not a blind review process and could create tension between reviewers and applicants. Appeals are for technical reasons only and not on substantive concerns. In this case, the issue was a SFSA application that was not focused on research but rather focused on developing teaching materials. Kohler reported that the applicant understood this and will not appeal.

Reports

Council Chair – Brooks Applegate

No report.

Interim Dean of the Graduate College – Gene Freudenburg

The Graduate College awarded \$17K to students for travel, down from a typical amount of around \$20K. Freudenburg is confident all money will be awarded by the end of the year. Frostic applications are being evaluated at the present time.

1. Research and Travel grants committee needs at least one faculty representative from each college (and two from larger colleges). The dean is stepping back from the decision making process as to who receives awards and allowing faculty members to make decisions.
2. The Graduate College will be conducting a series of Financial Aid workshops in January and February 2012. There are a number of changes in the process and the Graduate College wants to make sure students are aware of these changes. Tentative dates will be 18 January, 6 February and 17 February 2012 at the Fetzer Center.
3. Enrollment update: Enrollment information was provided. Overall, graduate enrollment is down by less than 1 percent. The College of Health and Human Services enrollment is up over 10%. Overall, enrollment looks steady. There was not a significant change in credit hours. The dean is very interested in growing graduate enrollment in a way that maintains quality of programs. The dean will discuss international enrollment (which is down about 2 percent) with the dean of international studies.
4. Tuition charges to out-of-state graduate students are supported by external funding. Minnick noted that this is true for WMU funded teaching assistants. The dean made reference to a 2009 RPC report that suggested that WMU investigate the potential for charging grants in-state tuition. One issue is that some grants do not have budget caps and therefore the grants can write in out-of-state tuition in the budget. Kohler noted that more grants have caps and it is a budgetary challenge to have out-of-state tuition in the budget. One option is to charge the grant in-state tuition and recover the difference in tuition from other (internal) sources for those grants with caps. The dean suggests this may be a point for discussion at a future meeting.

Vice President for Research – Dan Litynski

The Michigan Economic Development Corp. (MEDC) grant was given to a number of institutions (The University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, Wayne State University and WMU) to establish businesses in Michigan. The dean of the Haworth College of Business is the principal investigator. The Office of the Vice President for Research is interested in the development of an 'experts' database and the grant will provide sources for establishing a database. The goals will be (1) to have our experts listed in the database, (2) to know who is doing what at other local universities, and (3) to have this database accessible to businesses.

Internal Funding Update: Internal Funding Schedules were distributed. Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA) workshops will be folded into Research and Dessert which will take place 18 November. The structure of R and D will be a little different and the schedule was provided to the council. Kohler encouraged all RPC reps to go back and advertise R and D within their colleges. Applegate suggested the schedule of events be sent to RPC reps by email so they can forward the schedule to interested faculty in each college.

Litynski reported that 60,000 copies of an OVPR magazine were sent out. OVPR also is planning to provide an annual report, which has not been done in about 7 years. The goal is to establish a culture of research and scholarship.

Continued Business

Council Charges

Applegate reported on the charges after meeting with OVPR to discuss them.

- a. Charge #1
 - i. Review the RPC Role Statement
 - ii. Evaluate the process used to support and enhance creative activities and scholarship
 - iii. Develop goals and policies

Applegate noted that the RPC executive committee will meet and discuss the RPC Role Statement and determine if any work needs to be done on the role statement.

- b. Charge #2
 - i. No RPC action at this time, OVPR will bring forward a revised Misconduct Policy for review and comment by RPC

OVPR will bring to RPC a revised misconduct policy some time during the academic year. Vice President Litynski noted that there will only be minor changes to the policy.

- c. Charge #3
 - i. OVPR will provide a summary report to RPC on the number of individuals trained under the "Responsible Conduct of Research" National Science Foundation training mandate
 - ii. Comment from OVPR on the world-wide curriculum under development and consideration

At this time, no additional training is required for currently funded National Institutes of Health grants. OVPR is interested in generalizing the NSF mandated 'responsible conduct of research' to WMU researchers as a whole. To this end, Kohler noted OVPR is working with an international group for an online training program. It is anticipated that it will be ready to go by fall 2012. There is also a research ethics 'team' at WMU.

- d. Charge #4
 - i. RPC needs to form a subcommittee to review the Conflict of Interest policy as recommended by the HLC:
(<http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/accréditation/hlc.html>)

Applegate noted that we need a subcommittee from RPC to review the Conflict of Interest Policy recommended by the HLC. There was some confusion about the intent of the charge. Kohler reported that not many Conflict of Interest statements are submitted and they go to Mike Sharer, Director, Intellectual Property Management and Commercialization, Technology Transfer and Licensing/ Commercialization. Kohler thinks we need to have more clarification on the procedures on how a determination is made about a conflict of interest concern. Applegate suggested that he and Abudayyeh will go to the Faculty Senate for clarification on the charge and then speak with Mike Sharer about the process.

- e. Charge #5
 - i. OVPR will provide RPC with an annual report of FRACAA Workshops, FRACAA and SFSA proposals and how these lead to the generation of extramural applications

OVPR is going to provide RPC with a report regarding both SFSA and FRACAA funds. OVPR will be tracking the funded proposals to see if the investment is paying off.

- f. Charge #6
 - i. Research and Creative Activities Day Subcommittee – Update Friday, 20 April 2012 will be the date of the Research and Creative Activities Poster Day. There are financial awards for posters/presentations from the Graduate Student Advisory Committee, OVPR and anonymous donors. The planning committee is meeting 18 November.

- g. Charge #7
 - i. Fall SFSA round was reported on at the 13 October 2011 RPC meeting
 - ii. Spring submission date is 31 January 2012

RPC successfully completed the fall 2011 SFSA submissions. All accept and reject letters went out and money has been awarded. The group will review the next set of proposals in February 2012.

- h. Charge #8
 - i. RPC Discussion
 1. Data Management Plans
 2. Data repository (University Libraries possibly)
 3. Impact/inclusion with existing University policies

Applegate reported that University libraries are interested in facilitating the housing of data related to this charge. Applegate reported he is wary of developing a policy about data management that may overburden a PI's obligations. Kohler noted that NSF is interested in PIs having a data management plan so that data can be made available for replication studies etc.

- i. Charge #9
 - i. Dr. Jack Luderer, Associate Dean for Research, WMU School of Medicine and Dr. Hal Jenson, Dean, WMU School of Medicine will be invited to a future RPC meeting for open discussion.

Applegate reported he is trying to arrange to have Dr. Luderer and Dr. Jenson attend a future meeting.

New Business

- Litynski noted there were 11 Technology Grant requests.
- The next meeting is Thursday, 8 December, at 2:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Stark made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Minnick seconded. Motion passed.
The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Ann Stark