

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL  
Minutes of 9 February 2012

**Members present:** Alhassan Abdul-Muhmin, Brooks Applegate, Manuel Bautista, Steve Bertman, Martha Councill-Vargas, Gene Freudenburg, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Monica Lininger, Dan Litynski, Carrie Leatherman, Sandy Steinbach, Vladimir Risukhin, Mary Ann Stark, Stephen Tasko. **Absent without substitution:** Osama Abudayyeh, James Kiddle, and Lisa Minick (sabbatical). **Also present:** Paula Kohler, Associate Vice President for Research, and Allison Weiner, Research and Sponsored Programs.

Council Chair Brooks Applegate called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. The chair welcomed Manuel Bautista as the representative for Alan Wousma (Physics) who is on sabbatical this year.

**Approval of Minutes of 12 January 2012**

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

**Approval of Agenda for 9 February 2012**

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

**Reports**

*Council Chair – Brooks Applegate*

The chair reported ongoing dialogue with the Office of the Vice President for Research and researchers about the policy limiting two concurrent funding streams from the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA) and Support for Faculty Scholar Award (SFSA) grant mechanisms. Researchers are limited to having only one active award during the fiscal period. The chair will work with OVPR and Kohler to revise the wording of this policy for clarity and bring this to the council in April. Dr. Hal Jenson (dean of the WMU School of Medicine) and Dr. Jack Luderer (Vice President for Research of the WMU School of Medicine) will come to the 15 March RPC meeting.

*Office of the Vice President for Research – Paula Kohler*

Kohler reported the following status as of the end of January for internal funds: Final Preparation and Publication of Papers and Creative Works (PPP&E) \$13,000 budgeted, and \$10,235 awarded; Faculty Research Travel \$240,000 budgeted and \$136,000 awarded; SFSA \$70,000 budgeted and \$24,000 awarded in September

and approximately \$23,000 awarded in today's review; FRACAA budgeted \$180,000 and 51 grants were submitted.

Faculty Development Award applications will be open tomorrow. This 18 month program includes a series of workshops (in May that will be open to interested faculty), and \$2500 for research. RPC was asked to spread the word to faculty who might be interested in this program. OVPR is working with other universities in the state to present a workshop on R-15 grant preparation for the National Institutes of Health. There will be a National Science Foundation workshop in Evanston, IL, on 19 and 20 March. Interested faculty should register early as it will fill quickly. There is a request for applications for universities who are interested in working with developing countries to improve their efficiency and quality of life.

The WMU research handbook has been revised and is in press. It will be distributed to all faculty and departments. PDF's will be sent to graduate students.

There were 20 undergraduate research excellence applications submitted.

*Interim Dean of the Graduate College – Gene Freudenburg*

The Graduate College is conducting a survey of chairs/directors, faculty and graduate students regarding graduate teaching assistants. The results will assist in future planning. Freudenburg returned from a visit to Dillard University, a historically black university in New Orleans, where he is engaged in discussions about a 3-2 program to encourage their undergraduates to come to WMU for graduate education. There was discussion about the differential between in-state and out of state tuition, especially as it relates to grants. Freudenburg will gather some data for presentation at a future meeting.

**Continued Business**

*Council Charges – Brooks Applegate*

- a. Charge #1 – no report.
- b. Charge #2 – no report.
- c. Charge #3 – no report.
- d. Charge #4 – The committee is reviewing documents and will bring forth recommendations in the future.
- e. Charge #5 – Bertman reported that there were 51 FRACAA applications received. One was ineligible, so 50 will be reviewed. The majority were quantitative research (28). We were able to recruit a sufficient number of reviewers so that each reviewer has no more than 10 grants to review. It continues to be an issue finding reviewers for creative activities. Reviews are due 16 March.

- f. Charge #6 – Research and Creative Activities Day Subcommittee report: Kohler announced that additional funding for the event was committed. So far, 12 faculty have volunteered to be judges and 4 students are registered to present posters. RPC members were reminded to solicit graduate posters from graduate faculty in their colleges as well as judges. Kohler reported on an option for displaying posters that is being explored.
- g. Charge #7 – See chair report. 17 grants were received and 3 were ineligible. 12 were funded.
- h. Charge #8 – no report
- i. Charge #9 – See chair report. If council members have questions for Dr. Jenson or Dr. Luderer, they should be submitted to Applegate in advance.

### **New Business**

Kohler reported that a grant was submitted this week as a partnership between WMU and the new WMU School of Medicine. Richard Long, College of Health and Human Services, is the PI. This grant will provide an interdisciplinary center for health education and resource center for western Michigan.

Litynski reported that the OVPR action plan was revised based on feedback given on the previous draft. A copy of the revised working document was distributed to the council. Feedback on this document should be sent to OVPR. He is collaborating on an entrepreneurship initiative between Michigan universities and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

The next meeting is Thursday, 15 March, at 2:30 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

Kohler made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Steinbach seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Stark