

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 12 April 2012

Members present: Alhassan Abdul-Muhmin, Osama Abudayyeh, Kimberly Adams (for Martha Councell-Vargas), Brooks Applegate, Manuel Bautista, Steve Bertman, Gene Freudenburg, Muralidhar Ghantasala, James Kiddle, Dan Litynski, Carrie Leatherman, Vladimir Risukhin, Sandy Steinbach, Mary Ann Stark, Stephen Tasko, Muthanna Yaqoob. **Absent without substitution:** 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 2:39 p.m.

Approval of Agenda for 12 April 2012

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

Approval of Minutes of 15 March 2012

Approval of the March minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

Reports

Council Chair – Brooks Applegate

The chair reported Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA) decisions have been made.

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

Litynski reported that eight Research Development Award applications were received and all will most likely be funded.

Interim Dean of the Graduate College – Gene Freudenburg

The Graduate College is awarding six dissertation completion fellowships. Three are for full time and three half time awards. The Frostic and Thompson award committees will meet soon. In the April graduation, 34 doctoral degrees will be awarded, the same number as last year. The number of master's degrees that will be awarded is 522, with 25 of those completing a thesis. All those completing dissertation and thesis work will be given the opportunity to place their work in ScholarWorks. Applications for fall admissions to the Graduate College are up 7% for doctoral work and 12% for masters' work at this time. There is a reception 26 April at 5 p.m. honoring the graduate research and creative activities awardees as well as teaching effectiveness award winners. Discussion followed on the reasons for the small percentage of masters' students completing a thesis.

Continued Business

Council Charges – Brooks Applegate

- a. Charge #1 - no report.
- b. Charge #2 - no report; currently in review at the Office of the Vice President for Research.
- c. Charge #3 - Kohler reported on the status of the world wide curriculum; WMU participated in its development. This curriculum will be available to WMU programs and can interface with Desire2Learn platform. A committee meeting is scheduled to decide where the curriculum is best placed for programs at WMU.
- d. Charge #4 - The committee has reviewed the policy and compared it to other institutions. The OVPR also has gathered some data and will share this with the committee.
- e. Charge #5 - Bertman reported that the new guidelines that were revised last spring for FRACAA applications helped to improve the review process. Fifty applications met the guidelines and were reviewed. All applications were reviewed by three reviewers (the panel consisted of 20 reviewers). The panel met and rank ordered grant applications. They recommended funding of the top 21 applications, until funds ran out. There was discussion of whether there was a relationship between those who attended the workshops or individual sessions and those who were funded. The qualitative studies and fine arts proposals were funded at a lower percentage than quantitative.

Kohler reported that \$475,000 was allotted for AY 2011-12 and \$28,000 was carried over from last year to give a budget of \$503,000 for this year.

- \$180,000 was allocated for FRACAA and \$204,434 was funded to the 21 FRACAA grants.
- \$70,000 was allocated for Support for Faculty Scholar Award (SFSA) and \$49,417 was funded.
- \$13,000 was allocated for Publication of Papers and Exhibition of Creative Works (PPPE) (at \$600 per person) with the projected funding being \$20,000 for this year.
- \$240,000 was allocated for faculty research travel (\$900 per person) with the funding projected as \$222,000.

Based on Kohler's projections, there should be a budget balance of \$17,000 for this year. Discussion followed on how this would best be spent. Abudayyeh moved and Ghantasala seconded a motion to fund the 21 grants recommended by the committee and fund more if funds allow. A friendly amendment was made by Applegate. There was discussion of the motion that 21 FRACAA grants be funded and if funds allow within the \$503,000 budget then up to two more grants be funded. Motion carried with two abstentions (Kiddle and Risukhin).

Litynski and Kohler reported that the budget for next year can be expected to be similar to the one this year.

Kohler reported that the FRACAA reviewing panel expressed disappointment that the FRACAA fund was less than last year. Kohler reported that other funding from OVPR for research includes:

- undergraduate student research awards (48 awards this year totaling \$24,000 to students and \$6300 to faculty mentors),
 - research development awards (\$19,600),
 - sending 24 faculty and staff to National Science Foundation workshop (\$7,200), and
 - sending 12 faculty to National Institutes of Health workshop (\$6000).
- f. Charge #6 - Research and Creative Activities Day Subcommittee report: Stark reported that 44 graduate students and ten FRACAA recipients will present posters. Eli Rubin, History, and Katherine Joslin, English, will speak at the event. Breakfast and lunch will be served. There are currently 22 judges for the event and approximately 22 more are needed. Each faculty member was asked to recruit at least three more judges. A list of judges from last year and those who are judging this year was distributed.
- g. Charge #7 - no report.
- h. Charge #8 - no report
- i. Charge #9 - this charge was accomplished last month.

New Business

The Faculty Senate Executive Board asked that RPC have a representative on the Faculty Senate Medical School Task Force. Abudayyeh nominated Applegate; seconded by Bertman. Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting is Thursday, 17 May, at 2:30 p.m. in the International Room (Room 205) of the Bernard Center (note change in location).

Adjournment

Abudayyeh made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Tasko seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Stark