

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 13 September 2012

Members present: Osama Abudayyeh, Brooks Applegate, Steve Bertman, Martha Councill-Vargas, Muralidhar Ghantasala, James Kiddle, Dan Litynski, Lisa Minnick, Muhammad Razi, Vladimir Risukhin, Sue Stapleton, Mary Ann Stark, Sandy Steinbach, Susan Steuer, Alan Wuosmaa.

Absent without substitution: Steve Tasko.

Guest: Paula Kohler, Associate Vice President for Research

Council Chair Brooks Applegate called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m. and welcomed all council members. Applegate introduced Dr. Bill Rantz, president of the Faculty Senate. Rantz thanked RPC members for their participation in shared governance. He said that the Faculty Senate looks forward to memoranda of action and action items that will come from this council. He invited attendance at Senate meetings.

The chair asked each member of RPC to introduce themselves and their research interests. He pointed out that Abudayyeh is the Faculty Senate Executive Board representative on this council.

Approval of Agenda for 13 September 2012

A motion was made by Wuosmaa and seconded by Abudayyeh to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of 14 June 2012

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

Discussion Item

The chair distributed the Faculty Senate charges for 2012-13 and invited members to review the charges, in light of the strategic plan so at the October meeting we can formulate strategies for addressing these charges. Applegate will meet with the Office of the Vice President for Research to discuss the charges prior to the October meeting. The charges are:

1. Establish a committee that includes faculty and student members of RPC as well as representatives from the Office of the Vice President for Research to review the RPC role statement and evaluate the processes used to support and enhance creative activities and scholarship. Based

upon this evaluation develop goals and policies for enhancing faculty and student activities in scholarship, creative activities and research.

2. Address any continuing or outstanding issues or initiatives as deemed necessary by the council. To the extent possible conclude any outstanding initiative by producing a memorandum of action, report or resolution.
3. Conduct yearly review of the state of the research ethics policies and procedures in collaboration with the Vice President for Research. Initiate changes or additions where appropriate. (Taken from WMU Self-Study Report.)
4. Monitor the viability of the solution to issues related to the Conflict of Interest Policy and construct a formal written memo regarding a solution based on real case data.
5. Monitor the number of proposals submitted in 2011-12 for the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award to see if the OVPR workshop strategies are paying off in increase numbers of quality proposals.
6. Continue with the celebration of Research and Creative Activities Day.
7. Continue review of Support for Faculty Scholar Award proposals.
8. Continue discussion of medical school issues pertaining to research.
9. Review and recommend research-oriented technologies in collaboration with the Academic and Information Technology Council and the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Discussion of the historical context of some charges and their possible implications followed. Members were instructed to be prepared for further discussion in October.

Reports

Council Chair – Brooks Applegate

The chair distributed an organizational chart reminding the council of our responsibility to report to the Faculty Senate Executive Board. He reported that we will be asked to work with the Graduate Studies Council on some of its charges that have research related implications.

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

Litynski distributed a draft of the OVPR Action Plan for scholarship, creative activities, research and external funding (SCRF). The OVPR will continue to work on initiatives presented in the action plan. The WMU Research Foundation is also

working on a strategic plan. This year OVPR is conducting reviews of centers and facilities. He also distributed the material he shared in a briefing with new faculty and a new organizational chart. Allison Weiner, research and program officer, is on maternity leave and her responsibilities have been distributed while she is on leave.

Dean of the Graduate College – Sue Stapleton

Stapleton is working closely with OVPR to identify projects suitable for supplemental submissions for graduate student funding. Since assuming her new role, she has the goal of heightening deliberate communication, reminding all of the value that graduate education brings to the university. Stapleton announced that Dr. Marianne DiPierro will oversee graduate research and travel awards and evaluate the best way to distribute those funds. A chemistry doctoral student received a prestigious NSF award. The Graduate College is working with Lee Honors College to make its students aware of possible awards.

Continued Business

Conflict of Interest Document from 14 June RPC meeting

Kohler reported that new NIH financial conflict of interest (COI) regulations went into effect 24 August 2012. In response, using the RPC COI report and OVPR's COI analysis, they developed an interim policy that brings WMU in compliance with the NIH regulations. The new policy requires researchers to report financial interests to the university, which then works with the PI to determine if it is a COI. The policy and reporting documents are available on the OVPR website. The Research Ethics Advisory Team will discuss this in a September meeting. Kohler asked for a representative from RPC to serve on this team. Applegate will be the representative.

Litynski moved and Kiddle seconded a motion to table discussion of the RPC COI document until the October meeting. Motion carried.

New Business

Applegate distributed a copy of the 2011-12 RPC report to Faculty Senate to RPC members for their information.

Distribution of the \$475,000 allocation of funds for 2012-13 Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund programs was discussed, which include Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA), Support for Faculty Scholar Award (SFSA), Faculty Research Travel Fund (FRTF), and Publication of Papers and Exhibition of Creative Works (PPP&E). A report of previous years' allocations and expenditures dating back to 2009-10 was distributed. In 2011-12, this fund was overspent by approximately \$10,000, although over \$38,000 in funding was carried forward from 2010-11. Expenditures for 2011-12 across all the FRACASF programs totaled \$523,543. The overspent amount was covered by OVPR.

A motion was made by Stark and seconded by Bertman to allocate the funds for 2012-13 as follows:

FRACAA: distribute \$197,000 with \$10,000 maximum award
SFSA: distribute \$55,000 with \$2,000 maximum award
FRTF: distribute \$205,000 with \$850 maximum award
PPP&E: distribute \$18,000 with \$500 maximum award

Motion passed.

The next meeting is Thursday, 11 October, at 2:30 p.m. in the International Room 205 of the Bernard Center. RPC's faculty representatives will meet at noon in the Bernhard Center's Faculty Lounge prior to the 11 October meeting to review SFSA proposals submitted by the 1 October deadline.

Adjournment

Abudayyeh made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Applegate seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Stark