

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 11 October 2012

Members present: Osama Abudayyeh, Brooks Applegate, Steve Bertman, Martha Councell-Vargas, Muralidhar Ghantasala, James Kiddle, Dan Litynski, Lisa Minnick, Muhammad Razi, Vladimir Risukhin, Susan Stapleton, Mary Ann Stark, Sandy Steinbach, Susan Steuer, Steve Tasko, Alan Wuosmaa. **Also present:** Paula Kohler, Associate Vice President for Research

Council Chair Brooks Applegate called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. and welcomed all council members.

Approval of Agenda for 11 October 2012

A motion was made by Bertman and seconded by Kiddle to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of 13 September 2012

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

Discussion Item

1. The chair mentioned the need for two graduate student representatives to sit on the council. One is required to be a Graduate Student Advisory Committee representative and the other may be a graduate student at large. Dean Stapleton explained that the Graduate College is in the midst of organizing graduate student ambassadors to represent graduate students on various councils and as needed. She stated that there should be a representative at the November meeting.
2. Applegate raised the issue of whether the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) Research Development Award program is best suited to faculty developing creative activities work. Councell-Vargas explained that the requirements to apply for a federal grant were difficult as the National Endowment for the Arts is the only federal agency that would be suitable for fine arts. Kohler described the history of the RDA and recent changes made to the program. Litynski and Kohler agreed to consider ways to accommodate the needs of faculty in fine arts.
3. The chair brought up for discussion the limited time at the last meeting for the important discussion of the 2012-13 budget. Members discussed possible remedies for this including moving the budget discussion earlier in the meeting, sending out a proposed budget prior to the meeting and scheduling a longer meeting for September when the budget is discussed. For 2013-14, the budget will be sent out in advance of the meeting and the budget discussion will be scheduled earlier in the meeting.

Reports

Council Chair – Brooks Applegate

Applegate distributed a draft of the proposed Academic Program Review and Planning Procedure. The Faculty Senate and the Provost's Office have asked for feedback. Members are asked to disperse to faculty colleagues and give comments to the RPC chair or RPC Faculty Senate representative (Abudayyeh) by 1 November. The chair will invite the provost and/or the associate provost for institutional effectiveness to attend the next meeting. The chair reported that RPC faculty met prior to the meeting to discuss 21 Support for Faculty Scholar (SFSA) applications that were submitted; 13 were funded for \$24,985. Faculty who agreed to assist in writing the decline letters were asked to submit them to Melanie Greer, Research and Sponsored Programs, by Wednesday, 17 October.

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

Litynski distributed a list of submissions and awards for AY 2012-13 as of 30 September. He also distributed and discussed specific actions for the OVPR Action Plan for scholarship, creative activities, research and external funding (SCRF). The final strategic plan for OVPR also was distributed. Kohler announced the Research and Dessert event will be held on 16 November from 1 to 4 p.m. Some of the programs and presenters were announced. Research officers have organized so that officers have developed expertise related to funding sources. OVPR has given a temporary appointment to someone who has worked at the National Institutes of Health and will assist from development through submission to help those applying to NIH. A pilot program was announced that addresses tuition remission on externally-funded projects. Priority will be given to doctoral students. This begins 1 November and will be in effect for two years.

Dean of the Graduate College – Susan Stapleton

Stapleton reminded RPC that "graduate education adds value," a focus the Graduate College is communicating to the university and community. They sent out the first e-newsletter to graduates. There have been more than 50,000 graduates of the Graduate College since its inception. The Graduate College also is communicating via Facebook, Twitter, and a blog. Stapleton asked RPC members to look for ways to recognize students and their work. The Graduate College is working on developing a strategic plan and would like an RPC member to sit on this committee. Graduate travel award applications are being moved to be all online.

Continued/ Old Business

Conflict of Interest Document from 14 June RPC Meeting

Applegate reported that the work done by Kiddle and Risukhin is being used by the Research Ethics Team, on which he sits. Motion to table action on the COI document was made by Councell-Vargas and seconded by Minnick. Motion carried.

New Business

Due to the late hour, Steuer moved to table new business and Councill-Vargas seconded. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Abudayyeh made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Kiddle seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Stark