

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 6 December 2012

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

Absent without substitution: Susan Stapleton

Also present: Paula Kohler, associate vice president for research

Council Chair Brooks Applegate called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m. and welcomed new council member Michael Kiella, who is representing the Graduate Student Advisory Committee.

Approval of Agenda for 6 December 2012

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

Approval of Minutes of 8 November 2012

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

Discussion Item

Abudayyeh reported that the Faculty Senate Executive Board asked RPC to host a forum after a Faculty Senate meeting this spring. A topic was not designated but suggestions included: research and the strategic plan; academic program review; research and the role of the evolving medical school; tension between funded and unfunded research; obstacles to research. A motion was made by Tasko and seconded by Bertman to accept the invitation to present a forum. Motion passed. A tentative date of 4 April 2013 after the Faculty Senate meeting was discussed. The topic will be determined at a later meeting.

Reports

Council Chair – Brooks Applegate

The Faculty Senate Medical School Task Force met. Applegate is the RPC representative on the task force. Dean Hal Jenson was the only representative from the medical school at this meeting. Many questions were raised. Challenges for developing research at the medical school include the current focus on curriculum development and that current faculty are primarily clinicians.

At this time it is not clear how research will grow at the medical school. In the future, it is possible that the Research and Creative Activities Poster Day (WMU) and the Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies (KCMS) research day will combine. Litynski reported that a research committee is required for medical school accreditation. Since Dr. Jack Luderer left that position, there is no director of research.

Vice President for Research – Dan Litynski

Litynski distributed reports for WMU external funding value of submissions, awards and expenditures (5 year summary) and number of submissions and awards (5 year summary). There is less external money available than there was previously. Math education was recognized by the National Science Foundation recently. The Discovery Plan (action plan) was distributed. It is expected that all departments will complete a Discovery Plan, thus fostering the research climate at WMU. Deans will address this in each college. Evaluations from the Research and Dessert event on 16 November were distributed. The pilot program for non-resident tuition remission on externally-funded projects has been implemented. Several inquiries have come in; one has been funded to date. The lack of centralized data management and storage was discussed.

Dean of the Graduate College – No report

New Business

Discussion and Action Plan for 2012-13 charges:

1. *Establish RPC/Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) subcommittee to review RPC role statement and evaluate procedure and processes. Stark will chair a committee to discuss the role statement. Wuosmaa and Ghantasala agreed to serve on this committee.*
2. *Address any continuing or outstanding issues or initiatives as deemed necessary. The forum in April may address outstanding issues.*
3. *Yearly review of state of research ethics policy and procedures in collaboration with OVPR. Applegate and Kohler are on the ethics committee.*
4. *Conflict of Interest (COI). Above ethics committee will review COI.*
5. *Establish criterion, standards and benchmarks for annual review of Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA). Bertman will review FRACAA and bring recommendations. Kohler reported that of the \$205,000 allotted for faculty travel, \$88,800 has been paid out as of 6 December. Publication of Papers and Exhibition of Creative Works (PPP&E) has paid out \$6,000 and Support for Faculty Scholar Award has paid out about \$25,000.*

6. *Create subcommittee for Research and Creative Activities Day. **Tasko and Councell-Vargas are co-chairing this subcommittee. Dates were discussed pending Fetzer Center availability. Everett and Kiella will join this committee.***
7. *Establish criterion, standards and benchmarks for annual review of Support for Faculty Scholar Award (SFSA). **Razi agreed to work with Applegate to review SFSA structure of application and scoring. The OVPR has given more guidance for use of designated monies.***
8. *Continue discussion of medical school issues related to research. **Applegate is on this task force.***
9. *Establish a subcommittee to recommend research-oriented technologies in collaboration with the Academic and Information Technology Council and OVPR. **Steinbach is on AITC and RPC. She can act as liaison.***

Old Business

Councell-Vargas raised the issue that some departments and disciplines feel that they need to prove their relevance to the university, as they have less opportunity for external funding. Litynski commented that the term Discovery was deliberately chosen (rather than research) in establishing an action plan because discovery encompasses what everyone does. There was discussion about how some programs do not generate tuition money while others do. In contrast, there are some programs that generate grant money while others do not. Members agreed that this discussion should continue beyond this meeting.

Adjournment

Tasko made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Kiddle seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, 10 January 2013, at 2:30 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge of the Bernhard Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Stark