

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 10 January 2013

Members present: Osama Abudayyeh, Brooks Applegate, Martha Councell-Vargas, Kristin Everett, James Kiddle, Michael Kiella, Paula Kohler (for Dan Litynski), Muhammad Razi, Vladimir Risukhin, Mary Ann Stark, Sandy Steinbach, Susan Steuer, Steve Tasko, Alan Wuosmaa.

Absent without substitution: Steve Bertman, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Lisa Minnick, Susan Stapleton

Also present: Allison Weiner, Office of the Vice President for Research

Council Chair Brooks Applegate called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and welcomed back Allison Weiner who was on maternity leave last semester.

Approval of Agenda for 10 January 2013

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

Approval of Minutes of 6 December 2012

A motion was made by Kiella and seconded by Tasko to approve the minutes with one addition. Motion passed.

Reports

Council Chair – Brooks Applegate

The chair deferred his report to be incorporated in the discussion of charges.

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

Associate Vice President Paula Kohler reported that OVPR is gathering information from the survey distributed after Research and Dessert. They also are hosting focus groups with new junior faculty and the Humanities Center to discuss funding and how to obtain it. Program officers in OVPR are developing knowledge of specific funding agencies. Faculty are encouraged to contact program officers knowledgeable of the agency to which they are submitting, in addition to their own program officer. Quality Circle reviews are available as well as Hanover for reviewing grants. The National Science Foundation has new guidelines and submission requirements taking effect 14 January. Kohler reminded the council of the internal funding calendar. Faculty Research and

Creative Activities Award (FRACAA) and Support for Faculty Scholar Award (SFSA) sessions were held during the Research and Dessert event; individual consultations for FRACAA have also been provided. The bucksheet will be placed on GoWMU after security issues have been resolved. WMU had a site visit for a grant that would move intellectual property to commercialization. Another site visit by Lt. Governor Brian Calley is scheduled for 11 January for a grant to psychology and education related to autism. Kohler provided an update on Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund (FRACASF) spending, providing 2.5 years of funding history to allow projections for the current year. Steinbach reported that a new Facilities and Administrative (F & A) costs rate has been proposed, 51% on-campus rate, which is an increase of 2%. Kohler emphasized that OVPR allows flexibility for researchers in negotiating F & A as needed.

Dean of the Graduate College – No report

Continued Business

Discussion of 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, Wuosmaa and Ghantasala are meeting 15 January and will have a report at the next meeting.*
2. *Address any continuing or outstanding issues or initiatives as deemed necessary. Several potential topics for the 4 April forum were discussed. The council agreed to consider the following topic and vote on it at the next meeting: How does WMU facilitate/engage students in intramural and extramural research and creative activities?*
3. *Yearly review of state of research ethics policy and procedures in collaboration with OVPR. A scholar from the University of Michigan guided examination of the new ethics courses. Another consultant who is an emeriti faculty agreed to coordinate the introduction of these modules that may sometime replace the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board (HSIRB) Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) modules and be more discipline specific.*
4. *Conflict of Interest (COI). No report.*
5. *Establish criterion, standards and benchmarks for annual review of Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA). Applegate reported that the FRACAA committee had difficulty getting enough qualified reviewers from fine arts to perform their reviews. Requirements for FRACAA reviewers may need to be reviewed.*
6. *Create subcommittee for Research and Creative Activities Day. Tasko and Councell-Vargas reported that the Fetzer Center is not available on the dates requested. They discussed using the College of Health and*

Human Services or the Bernhard Center for the event. The committee will book the Bernhard Center for 5 April.

7. *Establish criterion, standards and benchmarks for annual review of Support for Faculty Scholar Award (SFSA). **No report.***
8. *Continue discussion of medical school issues related to research. **No report.***
9. *Establish a subcommittee to recommend research-oriented technologies in collaboration with the Academic and Information Technology Council and OVPR. **Council members were asked to give thoughts to Steinbach of issues that could be addressed with the AITC.***

Other

Members discussed how we might increase internal funding for research. OVPR, RPC, and Business and Finance could work together to identify sources of internal funding for research and creative activities. Suggestions included looking at how Fund 23 is being used in the colleges and departments to support research.

Adjournment

Steinbach made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Councell-Vargas seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, 14 February, at 2:30 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge of the Bernhard Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Stark