

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL  
Minutes of 14 February 2013

**Members present:** Osama Abudayyeh, Brooks Applegate, Steve Bertman, Kuanchin Chen (for Mohammad Razi), Martha Councill-Vargas, Kristin Everett, Dan Litynski, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Michael Kiella, Betty McCain (for Standy Steinbach), Vladimir Risukhin, Susan Stapleton, Mary Ann Stark, Susan Steuer, Steve Tasko, Alan Wuosmaa. **Absent without substitution:** James Kiddle

**Also present:** Paula Kohler, Associate Vice President for Research, Allison Weiner, Research and Sponsored Programs.

Council Chair Brooks Applegate called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. and welcomed Chen and McCain as substitutes.

**Approval of Agenda for 14 February 2013**

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

**Approval of Minutes of 10 January 2013**

A motion was made by Abudayyeh and seconded by Stark to approve the minutes of 10 January. Motion passed.

**Reports**

*Council Chair – Brooks Applegate*

The chair reported that 10 RPC faculty met to review 27 Support for Faculty Scholar Award (SFSA) proposals prior to the meeting. Two proposals were disqualified as they did not meet the proposal guidelines. The committee recommended that 13 be funded, for a total of \$25,305. Letters will be sent out next week. Faculty are asked to send their comments to Melanie Greer, Coordinator of Research Data, Office of the Vice President for Research, by Wednesday, 20 February. The chair reported that two grant applicants reported applying for both the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA) and SFSA. Since applicants cannot receive both, funds may not be used if those applicants are awarded FRACAA. Bertman moved and Kiella seconded that we notify the last meritorious SFSA proposal that pending available funds, it would be funded at the end of the fiscal year. Motion passed.

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

Litynski distributed information about external funding, submissions, awards, and expenditures by college and departments. Department discovery action plans are due to deans tomorrow. McCain reported that the Facilities and Administrative

(F & A) proposal submitted in December 2012 was negotiated and signed. F & A rate will increase 1% (to 50%) on 1 July 2013 and continue at that rate through 30 June 2015. On 1 July 2015, the rate will increase 1% (to 51%) through 30 June 2016. Kohler distributed a comparison of Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund (FRACASF) funds spent in the last three years and the current year's spending to date. A report of awards for FRACAA and SFSA by colleges was distributed also. Applegate asked that the committee consider ways to either increase funds or decrease allocations to balance the budget for this academic year. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

*Dean of the Graduate College – Susan Stapleton*

Stapleton reported that Tuesday, 19 February is Graduate Education Day at the capital (Lansing). Representatives from universities across Michigan will be there. WMU students will meet with legislators. Nominations for research and teaching effectiveness awards are due 26 February. The reception recognizing award winners is 25 April. Online orientation for graduate students is being developed. This will include an ethics component for all graduate students.

**Continued Business**

The Faculty Senate forum for 4 April was discussed. Several options for topics were discussed, including: barriers to achieving funding goals, discovery plans and their implications, survey results from research and dessert participants. Bertman motioned and Kiella seconded that the topic of the forum be: What is the role of faculty in meeting research/ discovery goals? Discussion followed. An amendment was made by Stapleton and seconded by Tasko that the topic be: Pathways to discovery: Research, scholarship & reputation of WMU faculty, staff & students. Motion passed.

*Report on the Research and Creative Activities Poster Day*

The event will be held on 5 April in the Bernhard Center. Tasko requested that RPC members continue recruiting faculty judges (we have about half the number of judges needed at this point). In addition, members were asked to take back to the colleges that student presenters be recruited (only four are registered at this time). A motion was made by Kiella to table discussion of all other charges to next month; seconded by Steuer. Motion passed.

**Adjournment**

Abudayyeh made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Ghantasala seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Stark