

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 14 March 2013

Members present: Osama Abudayyeh, Brooks Applegate, Steve Bertman, Kuanchin Chen (for Mohammad Razi), Martha Councell-Vargas, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Dan Litynski, Sandy Steinbach, Susan Stapleton, Mary Ann Stark, Susan Steuer, Steve Tasko, Alan Wuosmaa. **Absent without substitution:** Kristin Everett, Michael Kiella, James Kiddle, Vladimir Risukhin. **Also present:** Allison Weiner, Research and Sponsored Programs

Council Chair Brooks Applegate called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

Approval of Agenda for 14 March 2013

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

Approval of Minutes of 14 February 2013

A motion was made by Wuosmaa and seconded by Chen to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Discussion Items

Criteria for selection of Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA) judges was discussed. Bertman reported that finding judges for two of the panels (Quantitative Panel and Qualitative Panel) applying the current criteria is no problem. He reported that applying current criteria for the Creative Arts Panel resulted in only two judges this year. Councell-Vargas (representative from Fine Arts) and Bertman have discussed this issue. The history and rationale for the current policy was presented. Councell-Vargas brought three ideas for revision of the current policy in order to create flexibility in the criteria for selection of judges to review FRACAA proposals for the Creative Arts category. Implications of these possible revisions were discussed. A motion was made by Tasko and seconded by Ghantasala for the following statement to be added to the current policy:

“In the event of an insufficient number of FRACAA reviewers, the chair of the FRACAA committee, in consultation with OVPR, may consider alternative selection criteria.” Motion passed.

Research and Creative Activities Day is in need of more judges. Currently there are 64 student posters and only 31 judges. The committee may reduce the number of judges per poster. RPC members are encouraged to enlist more judges. In addition to graduate student posters, the event will include 17 FRACAA recipients and two speakers. Two framed pictures will be awarded to graduate student winners as well as monetary prizes. Sponsorship has been received from all colleges, as well as other sources, including the Graduate Student Advisory Committee.

Reports

Council Chair – Brooks Applegate

No report.

Vice President for Research – Dan Litynski

Litynski distributed information about Support for Faculty Scholar Award (SFSA) and conditions of awards and announced that undergraduate Research Excellence Awards have been selected. He distributed information about Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund (FRACASF) expenditures by month that includes projections for the year. Projections indicate we could be \$18,000 over budget for this academic year. Applegate instructed members to consider how we might handle this and be prepared to discuss this at the next meeting.

Dean of the Graduate College – Susan Stapleton

Stapleton reported that Tuesday, 19 February, was graduate education day at the capital (Lansing). Stapleton and four WMU graduate student representatives met with Representative Sean McCann and Senator Tonya Schuitmaker. Nominations for research and teaching effectiveness awards have been received. The reception recognizing award winners is 25 April. The Graduate College has ten awards that can be given for graduate associates. This is in process. Stapleton is exploring a career development program for post doctoral students.

Continued Old Business

The Faculty Senate forum for 4 April was discussed. The topic for the forum is “Pathways to discovery: Research, scholarship and reputation of WMU faculty, staff and students”. Several formats were discussed: Guest speaker, panel of experts, break out groups to discuss topic, roundtable. After discussion of these options and possible speakers, a panel to give brief presentations on “How do you move discovery forward?” was agreed upon. Panel members will include: Stapleton (graduate student engagement), Koretsky (undergraduate student engagement), a faculty member (perhaps Ed Roth) to represent an interdisciplinary/collaborative approach to discovery, and perhaps others such as Litynski to identify how discovery plans may move discovery forward at WMU. Applegate will moderate the panel.

A motion was made by Bertman to table discussion of all other charges to next month. Seconded by Councell-Vargas. Motion passed.

Adjournment

Tasko made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Steuer seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, 11 April, at 2:30 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge of the Bernhard Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Stark