

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 11 April 2013

Members present: Osama Abudayyeh, Brooks Applegate, Steve Bertman, Kuanchin Chen (for Mohammad Razi), Martha Councell-Vargas, Kristin Everett, Muralidhar Ghantasala, James Kiddle, Michael Kiella, Dan Litynski, Vladimir Risukhin, Mary Ann Stark, Susan Steuer, Steve Tasko, Jan Van Der Kley.

Absent without substitution: Susan Stapleton, Alan Wuosmaa. **Also present:** Paula Kohler, Associate Vice President for Research, and Allison Weiner, Research and Sponsored Programs

Council Chair Brooks Applegate called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m. He welcomed Vice President Jan Van Der Kley who has returned to RPC following Sandy Steinbach's resignation from WMU.

Approval of Agenda for 11 April 2013

A motion was made by Kiella and seconded by Van Der Kley to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of 14 March 2013

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

Discussion Items

There were no discussion items.

Reports

Council Chair – Brooks Applegate

Applegate reported that the RPC Forum following the Faculty Senate meeting on 4 April had moderate attendance. What was planned for the forum was abbreviated due to time constraints. Litynski presented the purpose of department discovery plans. The other two on the panel (Edward Roth and Susan Stapleton) were available to answer audience questions. There was some audience participation.

Vice President for Research – Dan Litynski

Litynski summarized the content presented at the RPC Forum on 4 April and provided the handout given that evening. He reported that there are nine invention disclosures so far this year. These and patents provide some revenue into the WMU Research Foundation to support research at WMU. Faculty Research and

Creative Activities Support Fund projections through the end of the academic year show that spending is on target to stay within the budget.

Dean of the Graduate College – Susan Stapleton

No report.

Reports Related to RPC Charges

1. *Establish RPC/Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) subcommittee to review RPC role statement and evaluate procedure and processes. The Task Group (Ghantasala, Kiella, Kohler, Stark and Wuosmaa) met to review and revise the RPC role statement. The following proposed role statement was presented to the council: "The Research Policies Council (RPC) advocates for discovery in the University by developing, reviewing, and recommending policies that support and enhance research and creative activity, which may be funded or unfunded, and may involve graduate or undergraduate students." The council was asked to review and consider this statement and be prepared to vote on it at the next meeting. In addition, the task group considered some ways in which the council might better achieve the stated role. Working with the Faculty Senate Executive Board to determine charges was one suggestion. This also will be discussed more at the next meeting.*
2. *Address any continuing or outstanding issues or initiatives as deemed necessary. No outstanding issues or initiatives.*
3. *Yearly review of state of research ethics policy and procedures in collaboration with OVPR. Kohler reported that an international company with many collaborators has developed five courses on responsible conduct of research. WMU has access to these. They can be completed online but may have a face to face component. It is hoped that WMU, WMed, and both local hospitals will have a common institutional review board platform.*
4. *Conflict of Interest (COI). A COI policy was implemented last August. No further report.*
5. *Establish criterion, standards and benchmarks for annual review of Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA). Bertman reported that there were 40 proposals, each reviewed by three reviewers. There were 18 reviewers on the panel. They recommend funding 21 proposals for the sum of \$199,407. Bertman moved and Abudayyeh seconded that "the top 20 proposals be funded with the 21st proposal funded if funds are available". Motion passed with Stark abstaining. Bertman reported that the review panel asked that RPC review the questions used to review proposals. It was*

discussed whether all applicants should be judged by the same questions, or whether questions for the fine arts applicants only should be reviewed and revised. FRACAA guidelines will be discussed at the next meeting, including use of students in FRACAA research.

6. *Create subcommittee for Research and Creative Activities Day. Tasko and Cuncell-Vargas (co-chairs of the event) reported that the Research and Creative Activities Poster Day was successful. In addition to the co-chairs, the committee was composed of Everett, Kiella, and Weiner. Participants included 60 student posters representing work by 85 graduate students, 18 FRACAA poster presenters, 38 judges, and two emerging scholars. There were 14 graduate students who received awards.*
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. No report.*

New Business

University Emerging Scholar Award Review Committee

Members were asked to submit at least three names of faculty to serve on the Emerging Scholar Award Review Committee. Applegate queried two faculty who stated they would be willing to serve: Robert Bensley (from the College of Education and Human Development) and Richard Spates (from the College of Arts and Sciences). In addition to these two, the following names will be forwarded as a possible third committee member: Andrew Targowski, Jerry Kreuze, Bill Liou, Tycho Fredericks, and Patricia Villalobos.

Committee on University Strategic Plan

RPC was asked by the Faculty Senate Executive Board to appoint a representative to the Committee on University Strategic Plan. A motion was made by Litynski and seconded by Kiella to give this responsibility to the RPC vice chair. Vote was 4 for the motion, 6 against the motion and 2 abstaining. Motion failed to pass. Kiddle offered to sit on this committee.

Adjournment

Cuncell-Vargas made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Steuer seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, 16 May, at 2:30 p.m. in room 205 (International Room) in the Bernhard Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Stark