

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 13 June 2013
Amended 10 October 2013

Members present: Brooks Applegate, Steve Bertman, Paula Kohler, James Kiddle, Carrie Leatherman (for Susan Steuer), Daniel Litynski, Muhammad Razi, Sue Stapleton, Stephen Tasko (for Mary Ann Stark), Alan Wuosmaa

Also present: Paula Kohler, Associate Vice President for Research

Council Chair Brooks Applegate called the meeting to order at 2:39 p.m.

Applegate welcomed new members David Rudge from Biological Sciences, Lori Brown from Aviation, and Patti VanWalbeck, Associate Vice President for Business and Finance; substitutes Carrie Leatherman for Susan Steuer, and Stephen Tasko for Mary Ann Stark. Applegate also thanked outgoing members Vladimir Risukhin and Stephen Tasko for their service.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Applegate requested a change in the agenda, with an addition by the Office of the Vice President for Research to discuss the procedure for timelines for the Faculty Research Travel Fund, and to place all new business before all old business.

Approval of Agenda for 13 June 2013

A motion was made by Litynski and seconded by Tasko to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of 16 May 2013

A number of corrections and amendments to the minutes of the 16 May 2013 meeting were discussed.

A motion was made by Wuosmaa and seconded by Tasko to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Council Chair – Brooks Applegate

Applegate again thanked the outgoing members Vladimir Risukhin and Stephen Tasko for their service, and welcomed new members David Rudge and Lori Brown, and Patti VanWalbeck as the representative from the Office of the Vice President for Business and Finance. Applegate will prepare the year's final report for the Faculty Senate, due 30 June. The draft report will be circulated to the council membership.

Vice President for Research – Dan Litynski

- The new University Research magazine is out. The internal Research Report will be released in approximately six months.
- A new initiative to facilitate collaborative groups has begun, in response to an NSF request for proposals to develop interdisciplinary research. The aim is to develop a materials research center. Pre-proposals will be completed at the end of August with the final proposals due in January. OVPR is working to pull together participants; two to five collaborating research groups and one educational group are needed for the pre-proposal. OVPR will manage the organizational structure. The center could receive NSF support in the amount of two to five million dollars per year over six years.
- Figures were circulated for Facilities and Administrative (F&A) distributions. The numbers were down last year due to reduced amounts from different funding agencies.
- Kohler reviewed the process of F&A distributions. The new F&A rate negotiation process is complete and the new rates take effect July 1, 2013. The rates are 50% on-campus, 24% off-campus effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2015; 51% on-campus, 24% off-campus July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017. The F&A return distribution was also discussed, and amounts are: General Fund 20%, OVPR 30%, colleges 20%, departments 10%, PI 10%, Research Foundation 5%, Research Fund 5%.
- Litynski reviewed numbers for external funding submissions, awards, and expenditures. Numbers are better than last year, but not as good as the two years prior to that.
- Applegate requests a time-ordered summary of Faculty Research And Creative Activities Awards, Support for Faculty Scholar Awards, and other data for RPC.

Dean of the Graduate College – Sue Stapleton

- Stapleton reported on funds expended in the graduate-student research and travel awards, Dissertation Completion and Frostic endowment fellowships. \$78,356 was expended for research and travel, and \$96,237 was expended for the Dissertation Completion and Frostic Endowment awards. Typically about \$100K are expended for research and travel; R&T awards are reviewed by committee and the limit this year was in the quality of the proposals, with the approval rate being about 50%. Workshops have been presented on writing competitive proposals. Dr. Marianne DiPierro coordinates the Research and Travel fund, as well as the Dissertation Completion Fellowships.
- A total of \$166,232 has been made available for graduate-student research efforts, supporting the above awards, as well as Alliance for Graduate Education to Professoriate (AGEP) and Thurgood Marshall scholars. This is a distribution to the college from the general fund.
- The end-of-year, all-university awards celebration has taken place and six awards for research and creative activity were made. These awards are noted on the students' transcripts and are also noted in the commencement program.

- A proposal has been submitted to acquire a financial literacy tool for graduate students.
- The Graduate College has established a deferred tuition program for company-supported students, starting this July.

Applegate commented that the intensive writing workshops have been very well received.

NEW BUSINESS

- OVPR is implementing changes to the Faculty Research and Travel Fund application and reimbursement procedures to improve the ability to predict travel-fund availability. After some discussion of the proposed wording, the language suggested was: "Applications for the FRTF must be received by OVPR no later than 30 calendar days after the completion of travel and include the following: Item 5 under Application Procedures: "Copy of GLOW report showing voucher has been paid (submit when payment is posted)" has been removed.
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A motion was made by Bertman and seconded by Kiddle to approve the new language. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

Tasko moved to nominate Applegate as RPC chair for 2013-14, seconded by Razi. Motion carried.

Razi moved to nominate Wuosmaa as RPC vice chair for 2013-14, seconded by Litynski. Motion carried.

A request for volunteers to serve as RPC secretary for 2013-14 was made but there were no volunteers, and no nomination was made.

Bertman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tasko. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Alan Wuosmaa