

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 10 October 2013 Meeting

Members present: Osama Abudayyeh, Brooks Applegate, Steve Bertman, Lori Brown, Paul Ciccantell, Martha Councell-Vargas, Michael Kiella, Dan Litynski, Muhammad Razi, Susan Stapleton, Mary Ann Stark, Susan Steuer, Patti VanWalbeck, and Alan Wuosmaa

Absent without substitution: Muralidhar Ghantasala, David Rudge, second representative from the Graduate Student Advisory Committee

Also present: Paula Kohler, Associate Vice President for Research

Council Chair Brooks Applegate called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m., and welcomed new RPC members: Lori Brown from Aviation, and Paul Ciccantell from Arts and Sciences.

Procedural Items

Approval of Agenda for 10 October 2013

Paula Kohler asked to be heard under *New Business* for the purpose of amending the June minutes. Dan Litynski moved to amend the agenda; supported by Patti VanWalbeck. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Muhammad Razi, supported by Alan Wuosmaa, to approve the amended agenda. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of 12 September 2013

A motion was made by Michael Kiella, with support from Steve Bertman, to approve the 12 September minutes. Motion passed.

Discussion Items: None

Reports

Council Chair – Brooks Applegate

Council Chair Applegate reported on the following:

- Ten Support for Faculty Scholar Award proposals valued at approximately \$20,000 were funded for fall, and \$30,000 is available for spring semester.
- Three items needing attention: a.) The SFSA Ratings Sheet was discussed, and b.) email inquiries were received regarding the eligibility of SFSA reviewers and who is eligible to submit proposals for SFSA and

the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award. The question centered on AAUP Article 34 contract language regarding restriction to bargaining unit members, or bargaining members represented. Discussion of eligibility questions regarding Contract Administrator and the Office of the Vice President for Research. Consensus was that the article meant “bargaining unit members”. Steve Bertman suggested we receive a clarification of the roles of the reviewers. Further suggestion that the language and appropriate interpretations be identified and reflected in the OVPR webpage; and c.) in the last several rounds of SFSA proposals it was noted that an OVPR inconsistency exists in how the requirements are interpreted: proposal documents being stripped to three pages with the loss of proposal content. Chair recommends that the requirements be revisited to be reasonable and appropriately flexible.

Vice President for Research – Dan Litynski

Vice President Litynski provided the following:

- Updated the RPC on the status of Contracts, Grants, and Commercialization as provided to the university Board of Trustees. The presentation document was reviewed and highlighted.
- Reiterated kudos to colleges and departments, which were included in the State of the University address. A WMU multi-disciplinary team led by the Department of Civil and Construction Engineering was awarded an MDOT national center consortium \$1.3 million renewable grant.
- Highlighted a College of Education and Human Development \$5 million grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Education to a consortium for the study of 10 high-need public schools
- The Elsevier Project is coming on line and contracts are let.
- Highlighted the Michigan Bio-Expo which WMU is hosting at the Radisson Hotel 15-16 October 2013 which features Researchers in Biological Sciences.

Paula Kohler provided the following:

- Highlighted that 24 Undergraduate/Graduate Research Excellence Award applications were received. Noted that the number of applicants has increased. Awardees will work with faculty and staff in OVPR and receive a \$500 stipend for travel and supplies; while an additional \$200 is available to the faculty/staff sponsor for supplies.
- Announced *Research and Dessert* workshops and networking opportunities scheduled for Friday, 22 November at the Fetzer Center.

Dean of the Graduate College – Susan Stapleton

- Meetings with office coordinators and graduate directors; first meeting took place on 10 October 2013. The meeting focused on identifying who are the students and where do they come from. Noted a declining population as K-12 pool of available students continues to decline.

- Graduate and Professional Fair was hosted by the Graduate College. There were 89 tables. The purpose of the fair is an effort to step-up recruiting efforts. The University of Michigan had nine tables. Graduate College recognizes that the "game is on" and WMU needs to consider how we will participate in the future. Activities strongly linked to Research and the OVPR, major topics:
- Funding of graduate students, international students arriving with full financial support from their countries, obtaining access to students that are fully paid, reduction in industry support, timing of tuition reimbursement payments. Demographics clearly local, national, and international.
- Sending out a note to graduate advisors that the prestigious Graduate Research Awards (NSF funding in Science and Social Sciences) next rolling deadline is 13-14 November 2013. \$30K + tuition allowance.
- Seeking nominees in Physiological and Medical Sciences for the Lyndal Competition. Award winners will attend the Nobel Prize ceremony.
- The first round of Research and Travel Awards are being finalized.
- One-year, renewable Faculty Fellow positions being sought to provide experience in working with the university's administration. Funding from the OVPA.

Continued/Old Business

2013-14 Council Charges: Brooks Applegate

Brooks Applegate provided the charges from the Faculty Senate and highlighted the following items, by charge:

1. Investigate barriers and obstacles that could be mitigated by procedures and policies. How to obtain greater success in the extramural world from RPC to full faculty to full campus participation. Appointed Martha Cancell-Vargas and Paul Ciccantell to advise and lead efforts.
2. Nothing new.
3. Highlighted rollout of new university Conflict of Interest program. Discussed Expert Control, Research Ethics Advisory Committee, Federal Policies (e.g. NSF, NIH).
4. Highlighted a generic COI policy deriving from university policy.
5. Creation of a template for use by the RPC and Research and Creative Activities Day chairs to manage the quality and number of proposals submitted.
6. Need a committee to work on R & CA Day. Appointed an initial committee: Mary Ann Stark, Lori Brown, Michael Kiella

New Business

Paula Kohler identified changes to the Report of the OVPR in the June RPC minutes.

- Facilities & Administrative (F&A) percentages and effective dates revised

Motion was made by Kohler, support by Wuosmaa, to accept F&A changes to the previously approved minutes. Motion passed. Wuosmaa agreed to provide a revised version of the minutes.

- Faculty Research and Travel Fund program details revised

Motion by Litynski, support by VanWalbeck, to accept the Faculty Research and Travel Fund details changes to the previously approved minutes. Motion passed. Wuosmaa agreed to provide a revised version of the minutes.

Adjournment

Michael Kiella made the motion to adjourn, with support by Mary Ann Stark. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Michael L. Kiella