

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 14 November 2013 Meeting

Members present: Steve Bertman, Lori Brown, Paul Ciccantell, Martha Councell-Vargas, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Michael Kiella, Dan Litynski, Muhammad Razi, Matt Reid, David Rudge, Susan Stapleton, Mary Ann Stark, Susan Steuer, Patti VanWalbeck, Alan Wuosmaa

Absent without substitution: Osama Abudayyeh, Brooks Applegate

Council Vice Chair Alan Wuosmaa called the meeting to order at 2:36 p.m.

Vice Chair Wuosmaa informed Michael Kiella just prior to the start of the meeting, for the correct listing of *Members Present* in the meeting minutes, that James Kiddle has resigned his role with the RPC, thus creating a vacancy in that position. As a result, James Kiddle should not be shown as *Absent without Substitution*.

Procedural Items

Approval of Agenda for 14 November 2013

Alan Wuosmaa proposed that the distributed agenda be amended under *New Business*, as follows: New #1 Membership on the Executive Committee of the RPC. Previous #1 (Article 34) is now item #2.

A motion was made by Mary Ann Stark, supported by Michael Kiella, to approve the amended agenda. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of 10 October 2013

David Rudge proposed clarification to the draft minutes under Council Chair Reports, item #1 to correct a typographical error FSFSA to SFSA in four places, and to add the words \$30,000 *is available* for spring semester.

A motion was made by Steve Bertman, with support from David Rudge, to approve the 10 October minutes. Motion passed.

Discussion Items: None

Reports

Council Chair – Brooks Applegate

No report, *in absentia*.

Vice President for Research – Dan Litynski

Vice President Litynski provided the following:

- Three Phases of the Elsevier project were highlighted.
 - Currently, in Phase I, faculty citations and publications are downloaded from approximately 21,000 journals, Phase I accomplishments will be previewed at upcoming Provost Council and Faculty Senate meetings.
 - Phase II is next. Grants and Patents will be loaded.
 - Phase III is planned for spring. Individual faculty members can download information. Provision will be made to add books and chapters, refereed conference proceedings, courses taught, networks and collaborators, and *curriculum vitae*.
 - Discussion regarding level of open access: certain provisions will be made for open access as WMU is paying for the subscription, and there will be a charge for others seeking full access to the database. The view-and-use privileges are still being developed.
- Introduced a new publication “*Discovery*” sponsored by the OVPR. *Discovery* will be distributed in brochure format, and will appear on the OVPR website. A suggestion was made for the OVPR to send a notice when a new issue is published to the website.

Dean of the Graduate College – Susan Stapleton

Dean Stapleton reported:

- The first round of Research and Travel applications were recently awarded in the amount of \$21,500.
 - 36 applications were received
 - 15 were awarded for travel
 - 6 were awarded for research
 - The quality of the applications continues to improve, in part because of the efforts of workshops sponsored by Marianne diPierro.
 - The Research and Travel paperwork is in the process of being streamlined and improved to coordinate with Federal financial aid laws.
 - They are a legitimate means to increase the cost of attendance.
 - Better coordinate department and student allocations
 - General discussion ensued regarding the requirements for one-day travel with respect to fuel, mileage, partial reimbursements, and meals. No action or recommendations were made.
- Responded to a question about the source of the \$21,500 award.
 - Graduate College Student Aid from Academic Affairs
 - Fund 11 from Student Aid apportioned to the Graduate College
 - Recently subjected to budget cuts

Continued/Old Business

2013-14 Council Charges

Received a report from Mary Ann Stark on the activities of the Research and Creative Activities Day, now scheduled for 11 April 2014 in either or both of the Fetzer Center and the Bernhard Center.

- Committee members are: Mary Ann Stark, Susan Steuer, Lori Brown, with consultations from Martha Councell-Vargas.
- New Graduate Student Advisory Committee Representative Matt Reid volunteered to serve on the committee, which was accepted by Mary Ann Stark.
- Program was explained
 - 15 Awards last year
 - Funding from the GSAC
- This year's program will expand to refocus on Creative Activities.
 - Martha Councell-Vargas will coordinate the recruitment and scheduling of creative performances.
 - Separate Awards for the Creative Activities

REQUEST: RPC members were asked to recruit 60 judges from the faculty ranks.

RECOMMENDATION: Consider for the 2015 Research and Creative Activities Day, whether RPC should open up the event to undergraduates (we were reminded that there are many departmental undergraduate poster sessions, plus the current 24-Undergraduate Research Awards that could make a positive addition to the Research and Creative Activities Day). Mary Ann Stark indicated that in addition to graduate students, our policy is to support undergraduate research, where appropriate.

New Business

Alan Wuosmaa, RPC vice chair, announced that he was resigning his position with the RPC at the end of December. Executive Committee requirements are such that a replacement needs to be nominated from, and approved by the RPC membership.

Mary Ann Stark accepted the nomination for the RPC position of vice chair.

ACTION:

A motion was made by Steve Bertman, with support from David Rudge, to elect Mary Ann Stark to the position of vice chair of the Research Policies Council of the Faculty Senate. Motion passed, unanimously.

An extended discussion was initiated in response to the request from the AAUP with respect to who is eligible under Article 34, other provisions of the current contract, and relevant Memoranda of Understandings to receive awards because of the recent State of Michigan Right-to-Work legislation; and the appropriate mechanism to consolidate those designations on award applications.

At issue are the relationships between a.) all faculty; b.) board appointed faculty and Post-Doctoral Fellows; and c.) bargaining unit members

CONSENSUS:

1. The RPC determined that it is not in its purview to clarify the meaning of contract language with respect to these designations; such clarification should be made elsewhere.
2. A representative from the AAUP should be invited to come and give their perspective in order to provide the clarification we are after.
3. The RPC will take up the harmonization of application forms by making appropriate policy recommendations to the Faculty Senate after it is informed of the specific contract designations and resulting eligibilities.
4. It is the policy of the RPC to recommend that funds be made available to the broadest eligible pool of recipients.

ACTION:

A motion was made by David Rudge, with support from Dan Litynski to TABLE the request from the AAUP until the RPC receives appropriate clarification(s) (items 1-4, above). Motion passed.

David Rudge suggested a review of the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award and Support for Faculty Scholar Award language pertaining to the External Funding requirements for certain departments (e.g. Humanities). There was no action on the suggestion.

Adjournment

Michael Kiella made the motion to adjourn, with support by Steve Bertman. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, 5 December, at 2:30 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge of the Bernhard Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael L. Kiella