

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 13 February 2014 Meeting

Members present: Osama Abudayyeh, Brooks Applegate, Steve Bertman, Lori Brown, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Michael Kiella, Dan Litynski, Thomas Rienzo (for Muhammad Razi), Matt Reid, David Rudge, Susan Stapleton, Mary Ann Stark, Susan Steuer, Patti Van Walbeck

Absent without substitution: Paul Ciccantell, Martha Councell-Vargas

Also present: Paula Kohler, Associate Vice President for Research

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

Procedural Items

Approval of Agenda for 13 February 2014

A motion was made by Michael Kiella, supported by David Rudge, to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of the 9 January Meeting

A motion was made by David Rudge, with support from Mary Ann Stark, to approve the 9 January 2014 minutes. Motion passed.

Discussion Items: None

Reports

Council Chair – Brooks Applegate

Council Chair Applegate reported on the following:

- That *Arts and Sciences* representatives to the Research Policies Council of the Faculty Senate (RPC) to replace Alan Wuosmaa and James Kiddle will not occur until next year
- Welcomed Dr. Thomas Rienzo from Business Information Systems to substitute for Dr. Muhammad Razi, through June.
 - Dr. Rienzo gave a brief biographic sketch
- Responded to a request to provide the names of faculty for the Emerging Scholars program. One-time, one-year assignments. Do not have to be RPC members. Successful scholars/academic types.
 - Dr. Rudge inquired about the qualifications with respect to range of scholarship and full professorship status
 - Dr. Kohler suggested nomination should be based on the full range of scholarship, funding history, publications, &c.

- A list of pan-institution scholars was developed
- Dr. Applegate will contact those on the list requesting their service until three volunteers are obtained.
- Further item will be addressed under New Business, re: a formal request to the RPC from Dr. Jody Brylinsky, associate provost for institutional effectiveness.

Vice President for Research – Dan Litynski

Vice President Litynski provided the following:

- Phase I of the Discovery project finishes tomorrow (14 February 2014)
 - OVPR Link will be up on 14 February
 - Provided a 5x7 program information card
 - Phase II starts immediately
 - One more week until the program links into the Michigan Portal (which will link the five Michigan research institutions)
- Continuing efforts to submit snapshots to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) on Research Sustainability. STARS is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance.
 - Focus on Environment, Society, and Community
 - Research Deans and STARS Committee engagement
 - The Princeton Review will use the STARS format

Dean of the Graduate College – Susan Stapleton

Dean Stapleton reported the following:

- Graduate students are actively working on Poster Day
- The Department of Comparative Religion is engaging a competition to enhance graduate students' contribution to scholarship

Continued/Old Business

2013-14 Council Charges

1. Ongoing
2. Covered under New Business
3. Ongoing: Dr. Kohler reported on EPIGEUM
 - a. discussions regarding the institutional meaning of certification. The question centers on whether certification means "course completion", or is a "credential"
 - b. Dr. Stapleton suggested that Suicide Prevention might become a part of the program
 - c. Dr. Kohler introduced that a program for doctoral advisors could be a beneficial part of the program: development partners, relationship building, scholarship availability, career planning as modules.

4. Ongoing: discussion focused on a Conflict of Interest (COI) policy for *Recusal* associated with becoming a Support for Faculty Scholars Award (SFSA) or Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA) reviewer.
 - a. Drs. Applegate and Bertman will continue to address *recusal* as a COI topic by developing a Statement in Principle, a Policy, and then establish a Procedure.
 - i. Dr. Applegate reminded that a policy is an expectation and a procedure is a mechanism for how the policy is accomplished.
5. Dr. Bertman reported that 26 proposals were submitted for the current round of FRACAA (record low number, down from 41 last year)
 - a. five in Creative Activities and Arts
 - b. ten Qualitative Scholarly
 - c. eleven Quantitative Scholarly
 - d. General Discussion on the following FRACAA topics:
 - i. distribution of submissions
 - ii. number of submissions per award
 - iii. potential causative factors (for low number of proposals)
 - iv. is it part of the annual charge to increase participation and engage in program improvement
 - v. not a matter of getting the word out
 - e. RPC can help with this charge:
 - i. determine if the decrease is a blip or an indicator of the need to proactively prevent the continuation of the decline in proposals
 - ii. identify capacity that is not being accessed
 - iii. report on funding statistics
6. Dr. Stark distributed the Fact Sheet and reported that there are currently not enough judges. Members were asked again to volunteer, if they have not done so already. A sign-up sheet was circulated
 - a. it was suggested that the Graduate Studies Council might be able to provide judging support
 - i. currently there are 15 judges
 - b. Tri-fold boards have been purchased to back the posters for display
 - c. Recommendation to drop the undergraduate posters (Undergraduate Excellence Awards) until a programmatic approach can be developed to include undergraduate scholars in the event
 - i. Undergraduates are not included in the prize money
 - ii. Award criteria different across the presenters
 - iii. Three quarters of the undergraduate are senior design projects from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences
 - iv. While the sentiment is still to include undergraduate students, it is unclear which ones
 - d. Martha Councill-Vargas created and provided the committee with a Creative Activities Likert-type instrument

7. Support for Faculty Scholar Awards
 - a. 25 submissions
 - i. One disqualified
 - ii. 24 in requests totaling \$44.5K
 - iii. 14 proposals recommended for funding totaling \$26,643.86

ACTION: Motion was made by David Rudge, with support from Steve Bertman to accept the 14 proposals. Motion passed.

8. Dr. Litynski reported that the dean of the School of Medicine has identified six research faculty coming on board in the medical school.
9. No report

New Business

Dr. Applegate reported that in a recent meeting with Dr. Jody Brylinsky, associate provost for institutional effectiveness, that a clarification was required in what the role of the RPC would be in taking up the questions from the Data Governance Tactical Action Community's (TAC) Project Action Team's (PAT) Survey Management project.

- RPC agreed in January to come to the table to assist the TAC with policy regarding survey management on campus
- Dr. Brylinsky suggested that the RPC is the owner of the project.

A meeting will be called by Dr. Applegate to meet with Dr. Brylinsky and Tracy Pattok (Director, Office of Institutional Research and Data Management) to clarify the expectations of the TAC, and the role of the RPC in assisting with the project.

- Dr. Applegate appointed a committee from the RPC to participate in this meeting: Drs. Applegate, Stark, Kohler; and Michael Kiella

Adjournment

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

The next meeting is Thursday, 13 March, at 2:30 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge of the Bernhard Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael L. Kiella