

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL (RPC)
Minutes of 10 April 2014 Meeting

Members present: Brooks Applegate, Steve Bertman, Lori Brown, David Hartmann (for Paul Ciccantell), Martha Councell-Vargas, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Michael Kiella, Dan Litynski, David Rudge, Mary Ann Stark, Susan Steuer, Betty McKain (for Patti Van Walbeck)

Absent without substitution: Osama Abudayyeh, Susan Stapleton, Tom Rienzo (a substitute for Muhammad Razi), Matthew Reid

Also present: Paula Kohler, Associate Vice President for Research

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

Quorum Call: A quorum of the Research Policies Council was present.

Procedural Items

Approval of Agenda for 10 April 2014

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

Approval of Minutes of 13 March 2014

A motion was made by Steve Bertman, with support from Muralidhar Ghantasala, to approve the 13 March minutes. Motion passed.

Continued/Old Business

2013-14 Council Charges

In order to support the charges from the Faculty Senate Executive Board, the order of agenda has been changed to hear progress on the charges at an earlier time in the agenda. Hence, Continued/Old Business has been permanently moved to this place in the agenda.

1. Brooks Applegate provided a PowerPoint presentation of RPC charge #1 that contained five elements:
 - a. Work completed last year
 - b. Recommendations from the Working Group
 - c. Strategic Plan Harmonization Hierarchy
 - d. A Comprehensive List of Policies Related to Discovery Activities
 - e. Recommended Policy Review Elements

David Hartmann and David Rudge introduced discussion regarding research for discovery, research for teaching and the harmonization of both within the colleges' strategic plans

Rudge asked about the implications of the charge with respect to the Medical and Law Schools.

Dan Litynski spoke of the collection of the 2013 Discovery goals in the colleges and reported on differences in how the responses were completed and communicated.

Litynski also suggested that the charge include a periodic review of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) and Memoranda of Action (MOA).

Suggestions were made regarding additions to the hierarchical structure slide and the addition of an item #6 to the Recommendations from the work group to add Review of MOAs and MOUs that pertain to Research.

2. Applegate reported that the charge would be discussed during Continued/Old Business item #2. Which was:
 - a. RPC subcommittee met with Brooks Applegate, Jody Brylinsky (associate provost for institutional effectiveness), Paula Kohler, Michael Kiella, and Tracy Pattok (director of the Office of Institutional Research).
 - b. Pattok to propose language and definitions for the proposal, determine next steps in consultation with a subcommittee of the subcommittee (Pattok, Applegate, Brylinsky); then report back to the RPC subcommittee.
3. Kohler led a discussion focusing on the Ethics Policy and Procedures related to certification, and integration of that certification into National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation requirements.
 - a. Progress being made on the language regarding the definition of certification and competency
 - b. Competency in the responsible conduct of research will be assured for each of the domains of discovery at WMU
4. Kohler reported that progress is being made on the Conflict of Interest policy
5. Steve Bertman reported on the progress of the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA) committee meeting
 - a. 15 faculty members on the FRACAA review panel
 - b. 26 proposals were received for funding
 - i. 50% of the proposals from the College of Arts and Sciences
 - ii. average success rate (funding per proposal) is 69%
 - iii. each proposal was reviewed by at least 3 reviewers
 - iv. result of reviews were compiled and normalized
 - c. 17 proposals were judged to be meritorious

- i. The 17 proposals speak for \$150K of the \$197K in funds allocated for FRACAA
- ii. 9 proposals are quantitative
- iii. 5 proposals are qualitative
- iv. 3 proposals are creative arts
- v. One additional creative arts proposal is receiving further consideration and discussion

ACTION: Steve Bertman moved to accept the committee recommendation to fund the 17 meritorius proposals at \$150K. Michael Kiella moved in support. MOTION PASSED.

- d. Discussion ensued regarding protection of the remaining \$47K with the intention of sweeping to next year's allocation
- e. Rudge asked if the sweep means next year's allocation, plus the \$47K, or if it means that it will be allocated and adjusted within the total of next year's allocation.
- f. Kohler provided a handout and discussed projections for the funding categories.
- g. Article 2 of the AAUP agreement addresses the requirements for funding.

ACTION: Steve Bertman moved to reallocate the \$47K remaining from the current FRACAA, after the funding status of the 18th proposal is resolved, to next year's FRACAA account. Michael Kiella moved in support. MOTION FAILED.

- 6. Research and Creative Activities Day report from Mary Ann Stark
 - a. Still in need of more faculty judges
 - b. Event is ready to go
 - c. Judging will begin at 9 a.m.
 - d. Presenters to arrive and be set up by 8:30 a.m.
 - e. Judging in the Creative Arts will use new criteria, then be compared to the static presentations for parity in scoring
- 7. No Report, however, Support for Faculty Scholar Award and FRACAA rubrics are with Melanie Greer in the Office of the Vice President for Research for further discussion at RPC in May or June.
- 8. Litynski reported continuing work on agreements.
 - a. Applegate reported on the formation of a Medical School Task Force and conveyed that the task force has not met in more than one year
- 9. No Report

Discussion Items: None

Council Chair Applegate reported on the following:

- The executive committee of the RPC (Applegate, Stark, Kiella) will cycle off from the RPC following the June meeting

- Inquired of Drs. Litynski and Kohler about the Hanover Project to determine safeguards and controls on moving institutional information (which will be contained in the Hanover institutional report) outside of the university. What systems of assurance will manage the security and use of the information?
 - Litynski reported that Hanover is in the employ of Western Michigan University, and that WMU has contractual controls in place
 - Is comprised of approximately 90-100 consultants in the fields of Research, Grant Writing, and Grant Discovery.
 - Purpose is to assist the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) by looking for topics, subjects, themes, and correlations based on grant opportunities and requests for collaborations; and then, synthesize information for use in the WMU departments

Reports

Council Chair – Brooks Applegate

- Reiterated the value and importance of the RPC Charge #1 to future activities of the council and Faculty Senate.

Vice President for Research – Dan Litynski

Vice President Litynski provided the following:

- Led a discussion on the Discovery Experts program and provided a usage-time-chart that indicates an average of 10 uses per day, 960 current visits, by 647 unique users
- Reported on funding activities with the Michigan Economic Development Commission
 - Five research institutions linked by common research variables
 - Topical cross-portal use within the 5 major research institutions
- Reported that postcards went out on 1 April regarding the Elsevier Expert program plan for researchers to input their own data
 - This aspect a little behind schedule
 - Information will be available and announced on the OVPR website, by postcard, and to departments including the URL and instructions for self-input of data
 - Walk-in assistance will be provided (40hours/researcher) to help with this part of the project.

Dean of the Graduate College – Susan Stapleton

- No report

New Business

None

Adjournment

David Rudge made the motion to adjourn, with support by Dan Litynski. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, 15 May, at 2:30 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge of the Bernhard Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael L. Kiella