

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 12 June 2014 Meeting

Members present: Osama Abudayyeh, Brooks Applegate, Steve Bertman, Paul Ciccantell, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Michael Kiella, Dan Litynski, David Rudge, Susan Stapleton, Mary Ann Stark, Betty McKain (for Patti Van Walbeck)

New RPC members present: Cat Crotchett (Fine Arts), Andre Venter (Arts and Sciences), Udaya Wagle (Arts and Sciences)

Absent without substitution: Lori Brown, Martha Cuncell-Vargas, Thomas Rienzo and Muhammad Razi, Matt Reid [Stapleton: the Graduate Student Association (GSA) will seat its representatives at the September 2014 meeting], Susan Steuer

Call to Order: Council Chair Brooks Applegate called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

Quorum Call: A quorum of 9 was not present until 2:38 p.m.

Procedural Items

Approval of Agenda for 12 June 2014

A motion was made by Rudge, supported by Crotchett, to move *New Business*, Item 1: Election of AY 14/15 RPC Leadership to *Procedural Items*, #3. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Abudayyeh, supported by Kiella, to approve the amended agenda. Motion passed.

Council Chair Applegate welcomed new Faculty Senate representatives to the Research Policies Council and requested introductions around the table.

Council Chair Applegate welcomed Faculty Senate President Dr. C. Dennis Simpson. Simpson imparted words of welcome, reiterated the role of the RPC, reiterated his support for the role of the RPC, and in evidence of that support provided his personal cell phone number giving permission for members of the RPC to contact him 24/7. Dr. Simpson departed the meeting.

Election of RPC Leadership for AY 2014-15

Procedural questions were asked and answered regarding the next item of business: Election of AY 14/15 RPC Leadership.

- Chair Applegate proposed two alternatives for the progress of the meeting after election of officers

- Current meeting adjourned. Re-opened under the new leadership
- Current meeting remain open for completion of the current agenda under current leadership. Re-opened under new leadership with the next agenda (September)

- Rudge suggested to the members that the meeting remain open for the completion of the current agenda, under the current leadership. Re-opened under new leadership with the next agenda (September). The recommendation was accepted by acclamation.

Nominations were opened for the RPC Chair.

Paul Ciccantell was nominated and will serve if elected.

A motion was made by Stark, supported by Rudge, to elect Ciccantell to the position of RPC chair for AY 14/15. Motion passed.

Nominations were opened for the RPC Vice Chair.

David Rudge self-nominated and will serve if elected.

A motion was made by Rudge, supported by Ghantasala, to elect Rudge to the position of RPC vice chair for AY 14/15. Motion passed.

Nominations were opened for the RPC Secretary.

Muralidhar Ghantasala was nominated and will serve if elected.

A motion was made by Abudayyeh, supported by Rudge, to elect Ghantasala to the position of RPC Secretary for AY 14/15. Motion passed.

The RPC Executive Committee for AY 2014-15 is:

- Paul Ciccantell, Chair
- David Rudge, Vice Chair
- Muralidhar Ghantasala, Secretary

Approval of Minutes of 15 May 2014

A motion was made by Rudge, seconded by Bertman, to approve the 15 May 2014 minutes with change: Bertman requested that the charge-seven report be clarified to specify that the charge report is regarding Support for Faculty Scholar Award (SFSA) and Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA). Litynski requested that his report be clarified to specify that the report of interest is Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund (FRACASF) – FRACAA and SFSA. Motion passed.

Continued/Old Business

2013-14 Council Charges

1. Applegate walked the members through version #3 of the RPC Charge #1 PowerPoint handout.
 - a. Discussion centered on the Recommendation (p3) that the RPC set their own charges. The language was improved to reflect the intent of the RPC: Item 1, p3. intends that the RPC seek, and maintain an active role in determining the annual charges in partnership with the Faculty Senate

A motion was made by Kiella, and seconded by Rudge to:

Accept as amended (item 1, p3) the PowerPoint presentation as a working document for the purpose of making a record of ideas and recommendations for further development and possible action that arose during the current (AY 2013-14) RPC year. Motion passed.

2. Covered in #1, above. No other report
3. Applegate summarized the work of Paula Kohler, et. al., for activities that are rolling-into the EPIGEUM product
 - a. EPIGEUM serves as a base curriculum that has been modified to serve Western.
 - b. Is currently available : GOWMU→e-Learning Tab→Self-registration
4. A report of the year's activities is requested from the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR), which will reflect requirements at the Institutional Level.
 - a. Litynski reported that the Conflict of Interest (COI) process is managed for continuous refinement and improvement.
5. Complex discussion on FRACAA
 - a. Litynski provided summary report from the OVPR
 - b. Discussion on year-end fund balancing
 - c. Revision of FRACASF documents: harmonize SFSA & FRACAA
 - d. Ongoing work with respect to reviewer Conflict of Interest
 - i. Further discussion regarding COI at institutional level and at the program level
 - e. Discussion related to the meaning of funded research
 - i. Recommended that a conversation be held between OVPR, RPC, and the Humanities Center on what external funding means.
 - ii. Review the requirements to submit a FRACAA proposal
 - iii. Develop a list of external funding sources
 - iv. Litynski reported that the Federal reporting requirements are immutable:

1. Institutional COI requirements may be different than those used for FRACAA
 2. MOA uses the term "external funding": what is the default definition, university or program?
 - a. Operationally defined in OVPR in context of Federal reporting requirements
 - f. Litynski presented four FRACASF spreadsheets to reveal the expenditure history of AY 2013-14.
 - i. Discussion ensued on aggregating positive balances for the purpose of balancing over-expenditures
 - g. A motion was made by Rudge, supported by Bertman, that upon final accounting of FRACASF, positive balances be aggregated to pay negative balances; with any remaining positive balance being forwarded to FRACAA for the AY 2014-15. Motion passed.
6. A summary report was received from the Poster Day committee: "Points from Research Poster and Creative Activities Day Subcommittee Meeting and RPC Review"
 - a. Applegate will append the Concerns and recommendations to his annual report to the Faculty Senate
 7. Adequately discussed as part of Charge 5.
 8. No Report
 9. No Report

Discussion Items

None

Reports

Council Chair – Brooks Applegate

Applegate conveyed the response from Faculty Senate regarding electronic voting (see: 15 May 2014 minutes for charge to Kiella)

- Summarized the response from Faculty Senate
- Reminded that the easiest way to be heard at the council, both in discussion and during voting is to be present, or send a voting substitute during absences

Dean of the Graduate College – Susan Stapleton

Dean Stapleton provided the following:

- Announced a \$1.4 million dollar grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Foundation.

- Reported that the Graduate College Associate Dean has been selected: Dr. Christine A. Byrd-Jacobs from Biological Sciences.
- Announced that Graduate Assistant Training is scheduled for all graduate students with new appointments
 - General training
 - Specific training for Teaching Assistants and Research Assistants
- Timeline for implementing the Hobson *Apply Yourself™* online admissions system remains on schedule
 - Early September 2014 start date
 - Interfaces with Banner

Vice President for Research – Dan Litynski

Vice President Litynski provided the following:

- Reported that the WMU Discovery Expert System has now reached approximately 1700 unique users.
 - Requested that faculty go to their own domains and complete, verify, and flesh-out their own profiles
 - OVPR is aware of browser incompatibilities in the Discovery Expert System
 - Uploads are now being stored in a staging area, and after system review will go live during the fall term.
 - Help sessions for faculty are still available
- Extended words of thanks to the members of the RPC whose appointments are expiring, to Applegate for serving as chair and his long service, and to the RPC Executive Committee for their service to Research and Creative Activities at WMU

A motion was made by Rudge, seconded by many, to commend the members of the Executive Committee of the RPC for their service. Motion passed.

Adjournment

Rudge made the motion to adjourn, with support by Crotchett. Motion passed.
The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

The next meeting will be scheduled and announced by the Faculty Senate for a date, time, and location in September; to be announced.

Fini.

Respectfully submitted and forwarded to the AY 2014-15 RPC Executive Committee for action in September.

Michael L. Kiella