

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 12 April 2018

Members Present: Carla Chase (for Osama Abudayyeh), Steve Bertman, Martha Councell-Vargas, Anthony DeFulio, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Willem Homan, Christine Byrd-Jacobs, James Kiddle, Ann Miles (for Katherine Joslin), Sherine Obare, Jill Rowe, Paul Solomon, Susan Steuer, Andre Venter, Patti Van Walbeck

Members Absent: Onur Arugaslan, Stevens Bonhomme, Damon Chambers, Chris Coryn

Guest: Craig Morris, Graduate Student Association

The meeting was called to order at 2:39 p.m.

A. Procedural Items

Acceptance of the Agenda

A motion was made by Van Walbeck, seconded by Rowe, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Miles, seconded by Rowe, to approve the minutes of 15 March. Motion carried.

Chair's Remarks

'Research on Map' link was only used by two people so far; Steuer can send the link again.

B. Action Items

1. *Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award ranking*

Bertman submitted a recommendation from the Research Screening Committee of 19 proposals to fund for \$180,147. A question was raised about where the \$147 will come from. Obare will get the current status of other funds in the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund.

Steuer moved to accept the recommendation and DeFulio seconded. The motion carried without dissent.

2. *Infrastructure Review progress (charge 7)*

A copy of this information is attached to these minutes. Obare presented a new draft of the Equipment File spreadsheet. Council members asked about varied scenarios involving sharing of equipment. Obare fielded questions about the process of collecting information and noted that the procedures will vary from department to department, as the acquisition and use of equipment varies. All colleges and WMU facilities will be involved, as well as the medical school.

Timeline: May-June gather information; July-August cross reference with facilities; by December will have searchable database.

3. *Summer pay on grants policy (based on federal regulations)*

There cannot be a charge over 100% of faculty member's time. Limit it to 90% of faculty member's time. Federal law dictates these policies.

4. *Statement for RPC members to take to chairs and directors*

To improve awareness and invite them to bring issues to RPC's attention for further investigation, discussion ensued.

C. Discussion/Information Item

1. *Address funding obstacles to research and creative activities from the perspective of the faculty, consider diversity and inclusion issues as they relate to the role of RPC, and examine ways to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration to build compelling research proposals. (ongoing charge)*

Paucity of discussion:

- Potential taskforce/working groups – Material Science and Substance Abuse groups
- Kinds of research not easily funded, and how we elicit information about what the obstacles are.
- Whether there should be a system/requirements to list research specialties.

D. Reports

1. *Council Chair – Steuer*

The chair asked whether the council should meet in June. The May agenda is now large. There was discussion about current and future charges.

2. *Associate Vice President for Research – Obare*

The GrantForward database of grants is getting good reviews. Student Opportunity Center, Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship language.

3. *Acting Dean of the Graduate College – Byrd-Jacobs*

33 graduate students, faculty judges, 15 students got \$200 etc. cash awards Coaching? Faculty mentors need to provide guidance. Regional competition. Byrd-Jacobs noted the value of faculty attending, even walking through events involving research. Note of upcoming Honors Convocation, April 26, 5 p.m., Bernhard Center. 5 to 7 p.m., all university awards.

E. Adjournment

Ghantasala moved to adjourn. Rowe seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Submitted by Paul Solomon

(Refer to Action Item 2.)

The infrastructure subcommittee will work with Sherine Obare in OVPR to complete a survey of equipment and resources available on campus for research.

1. OVPR obtained a list of equipment from various departments (November 2017 – March 2018)
2. The subcommittee members met with Obare to discuss a plan to execute the process as follows (May – June 2018):
 - a. **College of Arts and Sciences:** The College has established an infrastructure and equipment committee. Obare will work with this committee to complete the list for CAS.
 - b. **College of Aviation:** Associate Dean Ray Thompson will work with Chairs and Directors in the College of Aviation to complete this list.
 - c. **College of Engineering and Applied Sciences:** Professor Ghantasala will work with OVPR intern and Ryan Connery to complete the list of all equipment in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.
 - d. OVPR will work with the Chairs and Directors in the College of Fine Arts, College of Education and Human Development, College of Health and Human Services and the Haworth College of Business to obtain a full list of all equipment.
 - e. OVPR will work with the WMU School of Medicine and the University Libraries to obtain lists of resources available.
3. OVPR will cross-reference the list with Facilities to ensure the list is complete (July – August 2018)
4. OVPR will develop a searchable database for all WMU equipment – Fall 2018.

Summary of FRACASF Funds

FY 2018						
FRACASF	BUDGET	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE	NO#	As of	Award Amount
FRTF	\$ 230,000.00	\$ (143,630.23)	\$ 86,369.77	183	3/29/2018	\$ 800.00
PPP&E	\$ 25,000.00	\$ (15,534.53)	\$ 9,465.47	30	3/21/2018	\$ 750.00
SFSA	\$ 40,000.00	\$ (40,253.00)	\$ (253.00)	21	3/1/2018	\$ 2,000.00
FRACAA	\$ 180,000.00	\$ -	\$ 180,000.00	0		\$ 10,000.00
	\$ 475,000.00	\$ (199,417.76)	\$ 275,582.24			