

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL  
Minutes of 17 May 2018

**Members Present:** Osama Abudayyeh, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Katherine Joslin, James Kiddle (for Andre Venter), Terri Goss Kinzy, Jill Rowe, Paul Solomon, Susan Steuer

**Members Absent:** Onur Arugaslan, Stevens Bonhomme, Damon Chambers, Chris Coryn, Willem Homan, Steve Bertman, Martha Councell-Vargas, Anthony DeFulio, Patti Van Walbeck

**Guest:** Sherine Obare, Associate Vice President for Research

Council Chair Susan Steuer called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

### A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

#### *Acceptance of the Agenda*

A motion was made by Rowe, seconded by Byrd-Jacobs, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

#### *Approval of the Minutes*

A motion was made by Byrd-Jacobs, seconded by Joslin, to approve the minutes of 12 April. Motion carried.

#### *Chair's Remarks*

The June meeting of the RPC is canceled.

### B. Action Items

1. *Funding Reports* – Kinzy and Obare  
The goal now is to create quarterly reports that provide more meaningful information to share with the Board of Trustees. This will be accomplished by providing more analysis, and by changing the metrics, and by working more closely with colleges.
2. *Internal Funding:*  
Discussion was led by Kinzy and Obare on Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award guidelines. What is the purpose of the FRACAA? Could a FRACAA be used to research a book in the humanities?

There was discussion of subvention of scholarly works. How to make funds available was also discussed.

Predatory conferences and vanity presses can be hard to identify. Availability of online sources listing status of conferences and journals was noted. Chairs and deans will need to ascertain qualifications of conference or publisher.

Should it be possible for Faculty Research Travel Funds to be used for travel aside from conferences?

Mention was made of changes to tax code that leave researchers in further need of funds.

Kinzy said that, taking the lead from President Edward Montgomery, the Office of the Vice President for Research is working on a document that will say all the awards to fellowships and similar that will be counted.

Subvention costs include indexing, and for images.

For Support for Faculty Scholar Award, Publication of Papers and Exhibition of Creative Works, and Faculty Research Travel Fund, there is no review process. Chairs and deans are needed in an approval process.

FRACAA – 38%  
SFSA – 9.5%  
FRTF – 47%  
PPP&E – 5.5%

3. *Election of 2018-19 RPC Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary)*  
Steuer was unanimously re-elected to the position of chair. Ghantasala agreed to continue as vice chair; Solomon agreed to continue as secretary.
4. *Election of Chair of the FRACAA Research Screening Committee*  
Manuel Bautista, from Physics, was elected chair.

### C. Discussion/Information Items

1. *WMU Research Advancement Program*
2. *Undergraduate Research Excellence Award*
3. *Discussion of 2017-18 Council Charges and Suggested Charges for 2018-19*

### D. Reports

1. *Council Chair – Steuer*
2. *Associate Vice President for Research – Obare*  
There are VISTA positions available in Kalamazoo and Battle Creek
3. *Acting Dean of the Graduate College – Byrd-Jacobs*  
The Graduate College estimates that again this year, about 120 doctoral degrees will be granted; keeping the numbers up helps with Carnegie rating.

Research and Travel grants: With the use of InfoReady, it is now possible to track data regarding grants more efficiently.

An NSF funded post-doc is now beginning to work with Byrd-Jacobs.

#### **E. Adjournment**

Adjournment was by unanimous consent.

Paul Solomon  
Council Secretary