

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL  
Minutes of Thursday, 8 November 2018, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.  
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

**Members Present:** Osama Abudayyeh, Manuel Bautista, Sue Stapleton, Anthony DeFulio, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Terri Goss Kinzy, Aneudy Mota (Graduate Student Association), Jill Rowe, Paul Solomon, Susan Steuer, Andre Venter, Patti Van Walbeck (for Vice President Van Der Kley)

**Members Absent:** Onur Arugaslan, Chris Coryn, Jonathan Eiseman (Graduate Student Association), Martha Councill-Vargas

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

**Procedural Items**

*Acceptance of the Agenda*

A motion was made by Rowe to accept the agenda; Bautista seconded. Motion carried.

*Approval of Minutes of 11 October 2018*

A motion was made by DeFulio to approve the minutes of 11 October. Rowe seconded. Motion carried.

**Action Items**

1. *Final Membership for the Sub-Committee on 'Interdisciplinary Research Collaborations' (with respect to Charge #4).*  
The membership was discussed.
2. *Review of Equipment Database (Charge #3) – Sherine Obare*  
The Office of the Vice President for Research tasked a student to work with facilities, building coordinators, etc. The next phase is for department chairs to review and add corrections as needed. Accessibility is a significant issue; who can utilize; where is equipment stored, etc. The work is complete except for Aviation.
3. *Updates and Concerns from the Floor*  
Terri Goss Kinzy reported that at the 7 November Board of Trustees meeting, she provided a preview about how OVPR is looking at data; “nice quarterly reports,” spreadsheets; searchable/sortable data; and highlight of awards. The Grant Reporting Revitalization research presentation was especially well received. A glossary of terms is being made available.

**Information Items**

1. *Highlights of WMU Research this Month – Sherine Obare*  
An Innovation Networking Session about PFAS will be held on November 15, with a guest coming from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. There will be good talks, discussion and food.

A Writing Winning Grant Proposals workshop will be held on April 24, 2019, with a guest expert. Notify department chairs of interest in attending.

2. *Research Policies and Procedures Update – Sherine Obare*  
An update was distributed to the members. Note was made that Grants and Contracts will now be discussed with RPC. Kinzy noted the importance of defining what a policy is and what a procedure is; they will be separated.

**Other**

1. *Council Chair – Susan Steuer*  
No report.
2. *Associate Vice President for Research – Sherine Obare*
  - good news: Jeremy Duncan, from Biological Sciences, received an NIH R21 grant re hair cell differentiation;
  - grant reports going to the Board of Trustees are now including names of publications, tracking most cited articles, etc.;
  - commercialization of research: funded by the National Science Foundation, to impart skills at obtaining funding for these;
  - extended deadline for undergraduate research excellence awards.
  - A Discovery Acceleration workshop will be held on 20 November. Mark Hurwitz, WMU professor of Political Science and 2016-18 NSF Program Director, will lead the discussion.

Update on funds spent by OVPR for support of faculty:  
Sherine will provide information. This year compared to last year: \$3,000 less has been spent to date. However, the travel spending is well ahead of schedule.

3. *Dean of the Graduate College – Susan Stapleton*  
This week there will be defense of the first Interdisciplinary Doctoral Degree. The dissertation is on policies regarding concussions.

Responsible Conduct guidelines for graduate students were implemented two years ago and good compliance has been received. The goal is to reduce the number of students being brought up on charges. This provides another layer for these conversations.

First deadline for research and travel grants. There's a flaw in the software.

There has been recent grant and study about diversifying the population of doctoral students who will move on to studying in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) areas. There are things the University can do to improve things. Mentoring is a significant issue.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Abudayyeh to adjourn, seconded by Van Walbeck. The motion carried.

Paul Solomon, Council Secretary