

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE**

**RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL  
Minutes of 10 January 2019**

**Members Present:** Susan Steuer, Jill Rowe, Anthony DeFulio, Ann Miles (for Katherine Joslin), Andre Venter, Jonathan Eiseman, Onur Arugaslan, Paul Solomon, Terri Kinzy, Chris Coryn, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Susan Stapleton, Martha Councell-Vargas, and Osama Abudayyeh

The meeting was called to order at 2:31 p.m.

**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

*Acceptance of the Agenda*

A motion was made by Ghantasala, seconded by Venter, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

*Approval of the Minutes*

A motion was made by Stapleton, seconded by Abudayyeh, to approve the minutes of 8 November 2018. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEMS**

*Inconsistencies in Current Memoranda of Action and Practice for Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund – Kinzy*

The Office of the Vice President for Research has found a number of practical issues arising from a lack of consistency between the MOAs and procedures (MOA-16/02 Revised Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award Guidelines, MOA-09/06 Preparation and Publication of Papers and Exhibition of Creative Work, and MOA-08/03 Changes to the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund). Kinzy would like the council to revisit the MOAs (distributed with the agenda) to see if the original intent still aligns with the goals of the program and if the funds are being used as effectively as possible. There is particular concern about double-dipping for funds with the Support for Faculty Scholar Award, and the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award, and that Final Preparation and Publication of Papers and Exhibition of Creative Works Fund is completely unreviewed. This is also the case for the conference travel budget. Kinzy expressed concern about predatory journals and conferences. The budget for these programs has been consistently overdrawn over the last several years and OVPR cannot continue to fund these overages. Discussion ensued about whether a new MOA should be developed or whether these changes would be procedural. Abudayyeh noted that MOAs need to be rather open so that they maintain their value in the long term. Kinzy believes that additional clarity between SFSA and FRACAA is needed, as well as clearer guidelines for PPP&E and travel funds. Stapleton noted that this language has been in many contracts and has a long history at the University. The wide-ranging discussion included OVPR's goals to do more with foundations and address concerns about the burden of these programs on OVPR staff. Kinzy asked the council to think about what they hope these funds could achieve.

Kinzy will provide more clear information on her concerns with the MOAs in writing prior to the next meeting. She emphasized the need to increase external research funding to improve the University's ranking. She mentioned that major research drivers across WMU are the medical school and the department of psychology. We may lose our place in the National Science Foundation herd survey without the medical school. Education is also still strong.

*Interdisciplinary Collaborations Group*

With Sherine Obare's departure from the University, there is no chair for this group. Steuer has recruited Steve Bertman to chair and will work to get the committee recruited and on track. She has developed a short reading list for the group. The composition of the group to date was described and suggestions for additional members were provided by RPC members. This committee is a response to charges from the Faculty Senate Executive Board.

**DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEM**

*WMU Research Highlights – Kinzy*

The first quarterly report was issued to the Board of Trustees, which was the second presentation Kinzy had given. She mentioned the following:

- Major launch to promote Lori Wingate's \$4.9 million NSF grant to all Michigan universities and community colleges and elected officials.
- 25th anniversary of the NSF advanced manufacturing program that WMU provides evaluation support for via this grant.
- Soon hosting joint U.S.-Canadian Committee on evaluation standards.
- Tuesday, March 26 – Spring Convocation entirely on research.
- Fulbright session will also be presented by the Haenicke Institute for Global Education. Sessions will be on Education Research and Sustainability.
- FRACAA poster session will be at the Spring Convocation. Currently it is with the Research and Creative Activities Day with graduate students, but based on faculty feedback, will be moved to elevate the FRACAA winners to a program that celebrates faculty excellence in research. Distinguished Faculty Scholar presentations and award ceremonies will be included as well.

*OVPR Update – Kinzy*

Working on integrating Grants and Contracts into the unit. A position was filled by Kay Motarello, new Research Development Administrator, whose role is to improve coordination between OVPR and PIs and assist in finding new funding opportunities. There will be a new research officer; candidates are needed.

|           | Expenditure  | # of Awards | Award Amount |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| \$475,000 |              |             |              |
| FRTF      | \$122,067.94 | 155         | \$800        |
| PPP&E     | \$6680.77    | 15          | \$750        |
| SFSA      | \$13,961     | 7           | \$2,000      |
| FRACAA    |              |             | \$10,000     |

**OTHER**  
*Council Chair – Steuer*

No report.

*Graduate College – Stapleton*

- Fall Graduate Research and Travel Grant Competition was managed through Infoready system, similar to the one used for FRACAA and SFSA application process. A total of 24 applications were received and after review, 17 of them were awarded.
- The next round of the Graduate Student Travel Award grant deadline is April 22, no later than 5 p.m.
- The Graduate Student Association Conference grant is no longer being funded by the Graduate Student Association; however, it failed to close the application pipeline and is requesting the Graduate College to foot the costs of any incoming or past grants that have already been submitted.
- Stapleton is to generate requirements for gathering a portfolio of information to ensure the Graduate College Dissertation Completion Fellowship are being awarded to quality students and quality work. The webpage for this award is still under revision and has not been updated since June 2018.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Rowe and was seconded by Coryn; the motion did not carry.

Venter requested clarification by Kinzy on whether the Medical School was still eligible for AREA grants in light of its recent rise in government funding.

Kinzy responded by saying it was not something to worry about citing evidence that medical and graduate schools fall under a different category for AREA grants than WMU; OVPR is issuing information on the changes to AREA grants on its website.

The motion was brought back to the floor and carried.

**Submitted by P. Solomon, J. Eiseman and S. Steuer**