

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE**

**RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 14 February 2019**

Members Present: Osama Abudayyeh, Onur Arugaslan, Manuel Bautista, Chris Coryn, Martha Councell-Vargas, Anthony DeFulio, Jonathan Eiseman (Graduate Student Association), Muralidhar Ghantasala, Willem Homan, Katherine Joslin, Terri Goss Kinzy, Jill Rowe, Susan Steuer, Susan Stapleton, Andre Venter, Patti VanWalbeck (for Van Der Kley)

Members Absent: Jennifer Bott, Aneudy Mota (Graduate Student Association), Paul Solomon

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Chair Steuer, and a quorum was met.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Councell-Vargas, seconded by Coryn, to approve the minutes of 10 January. Motion carried.

Announcements/Chair's Remarks

Members were asked to keep comments to three minutes.

ACTION ITEMS

Review of Memoranda of Action dealing with the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund

Kinzy began with explaining the confusion with Memoranda of Action concerning Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award, Support for Faculty Scholar Award and Final Preparation for Publications of Papers and Exhibition of Creative Works, stating there is a need to establish clarity to prevent overlapping identical grants and confusion over the policy of now drawing funds in a single fiscal year from SFSA and FRACAA. As PPP&E is not reviewed, poster printing costs reimbursed vary from \$50 to \$150 for a similar size poster. Further, there was discussion on funding for book publication costs through SFSA and PPP&E and what costs are allowable. A new subcommittee is established to look at the MOAs with Venter, Bautista, and Councell-Vargas. It was suggested that the committee include as many areas of the University as possible e.g. engineering and others. Ghantasala to follow-up with Massood Atashbar or someone else.

Proposal for Refinement of the Final Preparation and Publication of Papers and Exhibition of Creative Works Fund

Set price for faculty to print posters at the library. Attempt to offer services to cut accounting costs; may not get a better deal than Kinko's (or other rapid service). University Libraries has equipment to print high end poster printing, but it shouldn't be mandated to print from the Libraries.

Emerging Scholar Nominations

RPC was requested to nominate a member for the committee, who will review the nominations for emerging scholar award. The potential emerging scholar is tenured, but not before 2015 (4 years). Due April 19, 2019.

Facilities and Administrative Procedure and Form

This is to update the procedure for requesting an F&A Rate Waiver. There is a procedure for someone who asks for reduced F&A for nonprofit work, which has been an issue for an F&A proposal and every time an F&A is waived, funds could be lost. The new form allows faculty to have a dialogue with departments and be consistent across the University. Kinzy addressed concerns regarding when and where the form will be due, so as to ensure that before faculty put in all the effort, their chair and dean are going to approve it. Kinzy stated it is a very simple form and needs to be done seven business days before the deadline. This should avoid the last-minute flurry of emails.

DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEM

Named Professorship Plan – Bott/Kinzy

Kinzy presented the proposal of the Named Professorship program as a collaboration between President Edward Montgomery, Provost Jennifer Bott and Kinzy, which is supported by a quasi-endowment, as opposed to donation. The endowment was set aside in 1997, and the program is funded by the proceeds and not principal of the quasi endowment. By the numbers: it is a three-year appointment that grants \$15,000 per year to identify faculty at the cutting edge of research and or teaching and to encourage them to continue their research or creative activity. This would be open to assistant, associate or full professors who have been at WMU for at least three years. The goal is to address a retention issue and identify who is doing really great work. Current faculty would run once a year and incoming faculty can apply on a rolling basis. Joslin asked if the title will be given always, if the funding runs out after three years. Venter asked to clarify the title given. The committee will be made up of the president's office, Kinzy and Bott. The fall round is application based, but it is not yet finalized. Kinzy stated she will take all concerns to the president; these include:

- concern about title as it is valid for three years, and afterwards faculty will return to their previous position/title
- Dual appointments may not be allowed
- Named Chairs can be given separately using donations from big sponsors
- Not related to specific research areas and can be repeated in any

- department, may not be equally distributed
- Awarded faculty can decide on planned expenditure of the fund, as these are based on what they aim to accomplish
- Invest some of the money in historically underfunded programs; all programs administered by the RPC.

Inventory Subcommittee – Ghantasala

Kinzy presented update for the subcommittee: An undergraduate student has put together all the collected information into a database. However, the information provided is not consistent. For example, some of the departments didn't specify whether they are willing to share the equipment; there is difficulty in sharing some of the equipment such as freezers, etc. Now looking into establishing a collaborative access system that is not ready for distribution yet. Kinzy is willing to talk to the inventory subcommittee and discuss the ways to move forward on this.

Interdisciplinary Collaborations Group Update – Steuer

RPC has a subcommittee with Steven Bertman as chair. Members were listed, and documents were shared for the upcoming meeting on 22 February 2019.

Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award Update – Bautista/Kinzy

By the numbers: 29 proposals; 11 arts and sciences; 8 engineering and applied sciences; 6 fine arts. The number is down from the previous two years and three were from the same faculty, may be disqualifying; however, the policy is unclear on this point at the application stage. Fifteen reviewers have been assigned, and a meeting in April is set to decide who gets awarded. They edited the review process and will provide a questionnaire to evaluate on merit context procedure. Teams write a summary of their evaluation as a way to have more effective feedback to improve future proposals. External funding is built into merit section. The procedure to step toward getting funding may also rank the different colleges separately or together. Venter wanted to know whether it was possible to provide feedback for both successful and unsuccessful proposals. Bautista indicated that everyone will get feedback on his/her proposal.

OTHER

Updates and Reports

1. Council Chair – Susan Steuer
 - a. Will be out of town for 6-10 weeks; Ghantasala will be running the next two meetings
2. Office of the Vice President for Research – Terri Goss Kinzy
 - a. Search Committee was constituted for the position of associate vice president for research.
 - b. 20 applicants of high quality applications were received, 1 internal
3. Dean of the Graduate College – Susan Stapleton
 - a. February 22 the next round of research and travel grants due. All university grants are due on the 22nd

- b. February 27 3-Minute Thesis competition, noon Bernhard center. First and second round, the winner goes to Midwest regional and then national competition. Submit external and internal nominations and coordinate nominations for our students

General Questions

1. Venter requested NSF big idea update. Kinzy stated government shutdown got in the way, senior graduate students and junior faculty judged. Holding because awards are guaranteed to NSF winners thus, those need to be determined first.
2. Kinzy also updated regarding the College of Arts and Science research officer research. Applications closed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Joslin to adjourn, and was seconded by Coryn; the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by J. Eiseman