

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE**

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

Members Present: Osama Abudayyeh, Onur Arugaslan, Manuel Bautista, Michael Harnar (for Chris Coryn), Anthony DeFulio, Jonathan Eiseman, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Terri Goss Kinzy, Paul Solomon, Mike Duffy (for Susan Steuer), Andre Venter

Members Absent: Jennifer Bott, Martha Councill-Vargas, Willem Homan, Katherine Joslin, Aneudy Mota, Jill Rowe, Susan Stapleton, Patti VanWalbeck (designee for Vice President Jan Van Der Kley)

The meeting was called to order at 2:34 p.m. by Vice Chair Ghantasala, and a quorum was met.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

At the suggestion of Abudayyeh, the agenda was amended: Cost share procedures, listed under Action Items was moved to Information Items. A motion was made by Abudayyeh, seconded by Venter, to approve the agenda as modified. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Venter proposed to amend the 14 February minutes as follows: Underneath the heading, Named Professorship Plan – Bott/Kinzy, additional bullet point to be included. Insert the sixth bullet point: “Invest some of the money in historically underfunded programs; all programs administered by the RPC. The motion to approve the amended minutes of 14 February was moved by Venter, and seconded by Eiseman. The motion then passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no other action items after the agenda was amended.

DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEM

1. *Interdisciplinary collaborations group update* – Ghantasala reported that the committee met once in February and the next meeting would be Friday, March 22.
2. *Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award and Support for Faculty Scholar Award Memoranda of Action review sub-committee update* – Venter reported that the committee is now comprised of Councill-Vargas, Bautista, and Venter (from RPC), and Ikhlas Abdel Qader, Engineering and Applied Sciences. Venter also said that the committee looks forward to the

Office of the Vice President for Research appointing an OVPR staff member to the committee. Kinzy suggested Ms. Kay Mortellaro.

3. *Cost-share Procedures* – Kinzy

Kinzy provided the members the guidelines document (along with an action flow-chart for cost share approval process) as well as a form to be filled out by the faculty requesting a cost-share. These were circulated to all members.

The new form is longer, in order to be more complete. Currently the form is with the provost. The form will now be submitted to the OVPR. The OVPR will then share submissions with the provost.

One of the important annual proposals for cost-share to OVPR is Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) proposals for submission to the National Science Foundation, as these are always multi-departmental over two or more colleges. There was discussion about how best to submit proposals when two to three colleges are involved in such cases. Ghantasala suggested that possibly in these situations, faculty could submit directly to OVPR, and count on OVPR to communicate with multiple deans. Kinzy said that OVPR would like to first be able to assess support from colleges. The over-riding goal, Kinzy said, is, ‘How can we make things easier in a time of scarce resources.’”

It was noted that there is one change in the flow chart in that proposals can be sent to more than one vice president at a time. Also noted: Cost shares are often a combination of in-cash and in-kind.

OTHER

Updates and Reports

1. Council Chair – Ghantasala (Vice Chair): Chair Steuer may return next month.
2. Office of the Vice President for Research – Kinzy
 - a. A memorandum of understanding was signed by WMU and WMed regarding the Institutional Review Board. Kinzy sees that as a significant first step towards improving collaboration between the two institutions. The agreement removes barriers to research.

Related discussion:

- Whether this will extend to clinical trials. Kinzy: this will be a subsequent step.
- Status of Medical Engineering: It started in fall 2018. It is located solely in the medical school.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Abudayyeh and was seconded by Venter; the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Submitted by: Paul Solomon

b. Bronco Big Idea competition:

WMU submitted 14 ideas to the NSF. Thirty entries selected for video presentation on NSF website, three of them from WMU. Congratulations to:

- 1) Todd Ellis, Department of Geography
- 2) Belinda Straight, Department of Anthropology
- 3) Lori Wingate, Evaluation Center (teamed up with Terri Kinzy, OVPR)

Five-minute video to be submitted by April 4, 2019. The next stage of the competition will have a face-to-face interview.

c. Named professorship: To be announced by the president.

This will begin in fall 2019 with the first round of selections to be done from the current faculty. Extended to new faculty from spring 2020.

d. Kinzy circulated the quarterly report submitted to the Board of Trustees to RPC members.

This report in a new format covering more than dollars, including important recent grants, published books, research and creative activities, and other information.

Venter enquired about 'Funding Alert' information that OVPR is emailing to faculty every month. Kinzy explained that these are compiled by OVPR staff and won't include foundations and corporate funding. Foundation funding opportunities are available at the Kalamazoo library.

Research Officer for the College of Arts and Sciences – Kinzy informed the council that currently there is a half-time person. Reference checks are being done for a new Research Officer for CAS.

Status of search for new Associate Vice President for Research – Invited eight candidates for zoom interviews. On-site visit and presentations will be the next step after further shortlisting from these interviews.

e. Update on Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund:

(As of February 2019) – (Faculty Research Travel Fund, Publication of Papers and Exhibition of Creative Works, Support for Faculty Scholar Award, and Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award)

\$475,000	Expenditure	Balance	# of Awards	Award Amount
FRTF	\$131,667.94	98,332.06	167 (2/8/19)	\$ 800
PPP&E	\$ 9,427.60	15,572.40	26 (2/5/19)	\$ 750
SFSA	\$ 13,961.00	26,039.00	7 (11/1/18)	\$ 2,000
FRACAA				\$10,000

3. Dean of the Graduate College – Stapleton

No report