

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE**

**RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL  
Minutes of 16 May 2019**

**Members Present:** Osama Abudayyeh, Onur Arugaslan, Steve Carr, Martha Councill-Vargas, Anthony DeFulio, Wanda Hadley, Terri Goss Kinzy, Jill Rowe, Susan Steuer, Andre Venter, Patti Van Walbeck (for Jan Van Der Kley)

**Members Absent:** Manuel Bautista, Chris Coryn, Jonathan Eiseman, Willem Homan, Aneudy Mota, Paul Solomon, Sue Stapleton

**Guest:** Muralidhar Ghantasala, outgoing member

The meeting was called to order at 2:34 p.m., and began without a quorum, but an additional member arrived at 2:40 p.m. to constitute a quorum.

**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

*Acceptance of the Agenda*

The agenda was accepted as amended. The change was B.3. Officers for 2019-20.

*Approval of the Minutes*

Arugaslan moved for approval of the 11 April meeting minutes, seconded by Rowe. Motion passed.

**ACTION ITEM**

*Policy Review*

Seven policies were sent to members prior to the meeting for review. Of these, five are Federal mandated policies or Office of the Vice President for Research policies which were presented to provide awareness of the policies among the faculty. These policies were:

- 17-5.2 Dual Use of Research Concern Policy (Federal regulations),
- 17.5.7 Recombinant or Synthetic DNA Biosafety Policy (Federal regulations),
- 17-2.3 Recovery of F&A Costs Policy (OVPR policy for compliance),
- 17-2.4 WMU Research Acceleration Policy (WRAP) (OVPR policy for compliance),
- 17-2.1 Conflict of Interest Policy (OVPR policy designed to clarify disclosure).

Policy 17-3.1 Intellectual Property Policy was presented, which had been reviewed by RPC before. The University Policy Committee requested that it be split into policy and procedure. The procedure was also presented for information - Distribution of Income from IP Procedure. This procedure will require a revised memorandum of action, which Kinzy and Steuer will prepare over the summer for the October meeting so that it can go before the Faculty Senate as soon as possible.

17-5.8 Research Misconduct Policy was presented which modernized policy language and reflected changed names and offices. This procedure will require a revised MOA which Kinzy and Steuer will prepare over the summer for the October meeting. Abudayyeh noted that this may be able to be approved by the Faculty Senate Executive Board.

The policy on Principal Investigators and Co-Principal Investigators was also discussed. This policy was reviewed previously and will require a new MOA in the fall, as well.

Those present discussed the materials presented and action will proceed when the necessary MOA's are prepared in the fall.

*Updates and Concerns from the Floor*

Venter cited the RPC 2019-20 roster, which had been distributed at the beginning of the meeting. He noted that 1) Martha Councill-Vargas replaced Jessaca Spybrook as the at-large representative last year and Paul Solomon was the representative for Fine Arts. These seem to have been reversed on the roster. 2) David Huffman (College of Arts and Sciences) is replacing the lone humanities faculty member (Katherine Joslin) on the council and he may have an ongoing conflict with his position on the International Education Council. Steuer agreed to contact the Faculty Senate office about the issue and copy Councill-Vargas.

Steuer asked how many of those present would be able to attend the June meeting. Only one or two will be available, so the meeting was canceled, since a quorum seems unattainable.

*Officers for 2019-20*

The following nominated themselves to serve and were unanimously elected: Chair – Onur Arugaslan; Vice Chair – Anthony DeFulio; Secretary – Sue Steuer.

**DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEM**

*Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund Subcommittee*

Venter reported that the committee had a productive meeting with Vice President Kinzy on 23 April. Members include Terri Kinzy, André Venter, Martha Councill-Vargas, Manuel Bautista, and Ikhlas Abdel-Qader. The group defined its purpose: Refine and re-frame WMU's goals as a research institution via the creation of a new MOA to replace all current MOAs related to the FRACASF. They reviewed OVPR concerns with the current FRACASF:

- Procedures do not align well with MOA,
- Faculty confusion and questions directed to OVPR,
- Administrative burden related to Publication of Papers and Exhibition of Creative Works (small amounts, numerous applications); OVPR ends up approving PPPE proposals without RPC oversight,
- Clarify the purposes of PPPE and Support for Faculty Scholar Award – applications sometimes overlap.

Preliminary recommendations include: remove mandate for PAF submission to fulfill FRACAA award requirement, remove dollar amounts from MOA's to give RPC flexibility, and align policies and procedures.

The subcommittee hopes to have the process completed by the end of spring 2020 so that the new guidelines can be in place by fall 2020.

#### *Infrastructure Subcommittee*

Ghantasala reported that the infrastructure database is essentially complete, though some areas did not complete the survey and questions about whether equipment is available to others is not clear. The database is currently available to research deans and has proven useful for recruitment and coordination.

#### *Interdisciplinary Collaborations Subcommittee*

Steve Bertman (chair) sent an interim report, noting that a full report of the group's four meetings was forthcoming in the next few weeks. He noted that he will be on sabbatical next year and that the humanities representative to the group, Katherine Joslin, has retired. Steuer solicited volunteers for these positions with this group.

#### *Communicating Research Update*

Steuer noted that Solomon (absent) had contacted Tony Proudfoot, vice president for marketing and strategic communication, for information. She summarized the results sent from various representatives who had solicited information about the process in their colleges or units. The Haworth College of Business, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Health and Human Services, and the Libraries had reported. Most do not have a formal system, but may consider developing one. Business' research dean does compile a list of publications which is distributed to college faculty and OVPR, and perhaps others. Information from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the College of Fine Arts and the College of Education and Human Development will help further develop this picture as the council looks toward making recommendations in 2019-20.

#### **OTHER**

Kinzy reported the Named Professor procedure is finalized and was presented at the 9 May Faculty Senate meeting. The next steps will be to form the committee and establish the process to start in the fall. The third quarter research data is available on line; Kinzy highlighted the summary page that goes to the Board of Trustees and is posted, as well as recent success as measured by % increases by Fine Arts in submission, Arts and Sciences in awards and Education and Human Development in expenditures. Kinzy reported the six month inspection of the animal facilities was completed and no issues were found, and that Nancy Burr of the animal facility staff has been reclassified and moved to full time, where she will support the facility and serve with Julia Mays on the compliance team. Kinzy is considering establishing a vertebrate model system user advisor committee for OVPR.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Venter moved to adjourn and Councill-Vargas seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Submitted by Susan Steuer