

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE**

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

**Members Present:** Osama Abudayyeh, Onur Arugaslan, Manuel Bautista, Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Steven Carr, Martha Councell-Vargas, Anthony DeFulio, Wanda Hadley, David Huffman, Terry Goss Kinzy, Heather Petcovic (designee for Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jennifer Bott), Ricky Stull (for Andre Venter).

**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

*Acceptance of the Agenda*

Abudayyeh moved to accept the agenda and Huffman seconded. Motion carried.

*Approval of the Minutes*

Abudayyeh moved to approve the minutes from 10 October meeting with an edit for changing OR to ORI in one location. Huffman seconded. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEM**

*Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award – Bautista*

A FRACAA applicant proposed to use funds for summer salary for a faculty member at another institution. Bautista proposed to clearly state in the instructions that other institutions should not receive these funds. Discussion included Kinzy asking to consider that WMed should be exempt. A revised procedure for this will be presented at the next meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS**

*MOA-19/08 Creation of the Eligibility to Serve as WMU Principal Investigators on Sponsored Projects Policy*

The Faculty Senate Executive Board sent this Memorandum of Action back to RPC because of concerns about an exception. The exception is deemed important. Minor text changes for clarity were proposed. These will be implemented and the MOA will be sent back to the Executive Board. Huffman moved to approve the minor clarifications and send the MOA to the Faculty Senate Executive Board. Bautista seconded, and the motion carried.

*MOA-19/09 Revision of the Research Misconduct Policy*

The council revisited the issue of whether section 5.2 requires union review because of additional disciplinary language beyond what is in the contract. Arugaslan will seek AAUP approval for this section and the motion will be postponed until the next meeting.

*Fixed Price Agreements Policy*

The Faculty Senate Executive Board wants the council to consider formalizing this as an MOA. Abudayyeh moved to follow this advice, and Huffman seconded.

Discussion included noting that this policy affects people's financial situations related to research. It was noted that this is already standard practice and the University is just attempting to formalize it. By putting this forward as an MOA, it provides protection from future changes. Arugaslan will work with the Faculty Senate Office to format the document and send it to the Executive Board. Motion carried.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

**UPDATES AND REPORTS**

*RPC Chair and Vice Chair – Arugaslan and DeFulio*

No updates to report.

*Office of Research and Innovation (formerly Office of the Vice President for Research) – Kinzy*

The Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) survey results have been released. WMU went down in expenditures, and up in awards 46%. The University is still in the top 200 of public research universities. A full analysis is pending.

An initiative has begun for staff training in departments to inform them about what the office does. This includes by appointment training. The Professional Support Staff Organization asked for training related to GLOW, resulting in a 2 December workshop. There is an effort to try to assess needs and keep training staff on research related issues.

There is a part of the web page that has information on foreign influence in research. There is a working group at WMU about this, which will make sure the University is following best practices. Kinzy will speak about this at the Academic Forum next week. The biggest issue is people who hold full time appointments and are also being paid by foreign institutions. This is a conflict of commitment, and could be illegal, depending on what it is.

*Dean of the Graduate College – Byrd-Jacobs*

On 13 November, the 3-minute thesis was held with 10 competitors. There were four winners; two from the Masters in Business Administration program, one from Spanish, and one from Aerospace Engineering. There were fewer applications this time than in prior years. Judges included Byrd-Jacobs and Coryn from RPC; Carla Chase, chair of Occupational Therapy, and two students. The Provost attended and will judge for spring semester.

*U.S. News and World Report*, listed five graduate programs in WMU's College of Health and Human Services in the top 100.

The Board of Trustees approved reducing out of state tuition rate to 1.5 times for in-state.

Two Memoranda of Action from the Graduate Studies Council were approved by the Faculty Senate on 7 November: MOA-19/11 Revision to Graduate Catalog to Allow Graduate Certificate Credits for Use in Graduate Programs and MOA-19/12 Revision to Graduate Catalog to Redefine Full-time Graduate Student Status for Loan Deferment and Insurance Eligibility.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Huffman and seconded by Bautista. Motion carried.

Submitted by Anthony DeFulio, in substitute for Secretary Susan Steuer