

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 9 January 2020

Members Present: Onur Arugaslan, Manuel Bautista, Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Zari K. Carpenter (Graduate Student Association), Steve Carr, Chris Coryn, Martha Councell-Vargas, Anthony DeFulio, Wanda Hadley, David Huffman, Terri Goss Kinzy, Marilyn Kritzman (for Osama Abudayyeh), Jeff Long (for Patti Van Welbeck), Jill Rowe, Paul Solomon, Susan Steuer, Andre Venter
Member Absent: Heather Petocovic (for Provost Jennifer Bott)
Guests: Holly Blanks, Marketing Specialist, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Richard Gershon, Faculty Senate President; Carol Weidman, WMU-AAUP President; Michael Worline, Marketing Manager, College of Arts and Sciences

The meeting was called to order by Chair Arugaslan.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

A motion was made by Carr to remove MOA 19/08 Creation of the Eligibility to Serve as WMU Principal Investigators on Sponsored Projects Policy off the agenda, seconded by Venter. A motion was made by Solomon and seconded by Bautista to accept the motion as amended. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Kritzman, seconded by Solomon, to approve the 5 December 2019 minutes as amended. Motion carried.

Announcements/Chair's Remarks

The chair noted that Solomon had invited individuals from the marketing offices within several colleges to attend the meeting at 3 p.m. to talk about how research is promoted across campus.

ACTION ITEMS

MOA-19/14 Fixed-Price Agreements Policy

Marilyn Kritzman, on behalf of Osama Abudayyeh, presented MOA-19/14 Fixed-Price Agreements Policy. Kinzy noted that fixed price contracts are usually from corporations or non-profit service organizations, such as hospitals. Carr asked if costs overrun the contract, do department chairs have a voice to ensure that departments do not have liability for overruns? Kinzy noted that detailed budgets are seen by chairs as part of the Proposal Approval Form (PAF) prior to approval. A motion was made by Rowe and seconded by Kritzman to approve MOA-19/14. Motion carried.

MOA-19/09 Revision of the Research Misconduct Policy

Abudayyeh requested AAUP feedback. Kinzy noted that feedback had come back and material was added. Gershon believed the concern was that the University might try to impose additional penalties on the faculty member in the case of a finding of misconduct. Gershon wanted to know if disciplinary procedures happened in the Office of Research and Innovation or at University administration. Kinzy noted that the disciplinary process depends upon status. For faculty members, it would follow the process outlined in the union contract. Kinzy noted that outside counsel for AAUP should speak to Jessica Schwartz, head of the University Policy Committee or Steve Weber, who works with ORI on policies. The sentence in question is in the WMU policy template for all policies. Kinzy noted that this is part of normal policy review, so that there is an existing policy in force. A motion to postpone this policy until the review is complete by the AAUP was proposed by Carr, seconded by Bautista. Motion carried.

Revised Procedure for Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award

Kinzy noted that this issue is largely with the medical school in terms of allowing expenses to be paid to another university, as the medical school internal grant programs send funds to WMU. That is, can FRACAA funds be used to pay for services provided by the medical school? Bautista said that the problem arose with summer buyouts at other universities. Kinzy said that this was designed to acknowledge this particular strong relationship with the medical school, noting that most individuals at a medical school will be 12-month employees so summer buyout is not an issue, but most funds would be used for services or technical work/time. Bautista argued that this was not necessary given the revised language already provided. A motion was made by Bautista and seconded by Solomon to accept that language. Motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEM

Highlighting Research and Creative Activity

Solomon invited individuals from various colleges who are involved with communication to speak to the council about how faculty work can be disseminated beyond the institution for the benefit of departments and individual researchers. Michael Worline, College of Arts and Sciences, argued that faculty should not rely upon the Office of Marketing and Strategic Communications (MARCOM) to do this, and should be working closely with their unit marketing entities. He noted that CAS has an alumni magazine; internally it develops a "grid" spreadsheet of what is being done in the college, which comes up through the chairs and directors of the units. When it is time to prepare larger pieces, the spreadsheet is used to decide what will be the lead documents. The CAS also works to focus upon undergraduate research with another publication. Gershon noted that many researchers do not know how to promote themselves and asked if a template could be used by faculty to submit material to the most appropriate places. Solomon felt this was not going to be very helpful because it would provide too much information. Worline asked if there is a research committee for each college. Huffman noted that the units should have some expertise in their discipline and how to promote it; it is a communication issue between units and marketing sources. Individuals and units should provide context.

Solomon asked how the guests viewed their mission. They noted that they report to the dean and their job is to market the college, not the individuals or departments. Promoting student research and faculty student relationships is important right now to improve recruitment. These are easier stories in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) side than the Humanities. Getting faculty to talk about their accomplishments is difficult. Decisions about what will be marketed are approached by a team including the dean, recruiters and others to forward the mission statement of the college.

Kinzy says that for ORI, requests go to the deans for information to feed into their own publications. She said it was hard to find out what is going on and people will not tell you directly. She is working to make sure research is a part of the story we promote, but it cannot be the whole story. Redundancy is okay because different audiences pay attention to different outlets. Solomon argues that this is a culture problem in that people are too involved in doing the work to promote it. He thinks it should be part of the new faculty orientations along with some discussion of how to market to a general audience. Kinzy noted that sending your books and journal cover articles to the provost and ORI will help keep them informed. Discussion of various media and the purposes of promotion to various audiences ensued. Arugaslan mentioned the marketing person in the Haworth College of Business and how marketing can benefit faculty hiring, recruitment, and fundraising.

UPDATES AND REPORTS

Council Chair

Arugaslan noted that he met with Jim Butterfield, chair of the Faculty Senate's International Education Council, about international issues. Butterfield is discussing how funding for international conferences is equal to domestic conferences through the Faculty Research Travel Fund. Butterfield has been invited to attend the February council meeting. There was discussion of a combined committee with IEC and RPC, which did exist but apparently no longer does. Kinzy noted that domestic conferences are not completely covered either.

Vice President for Research and Innovation

Kinzy noted that the second quarter fiscal data is forthcoming. Submissions are equivalent to last year. The named professorship application process will go forward after the provost and president approve it. A large and diverse committee prepared the application. Lori Wingate is now the executive director of the Evaluation Center. Steve Magura will now have a role directed towards behavioral research and will have some availability to assist others outside the center. A new Facilities and Administrative (F&A) cost proposal will be going to the federal government in December 2020 and a committee will be engaged to provide feedback on the process.

Interim Dean of the Graduate College

The Graduate Student Association is having a three-minute thesis event on 12

February from noon to 2 p.m., in the Bernhard Center in Rooms 208-209. Applications are due to the Graduate College by 31 January. Byrd-Jacobs may solicit volunteer judges. Research and travel grants for fall funded 18 of 30 research grants and 25 of 46 travel grants. The next due date is 7 February. Another round will go through in late spring. Doctoral scholar applications will go out next week. It is a recruitment tool for new students to come to WMU and guarantees two years of funding. A service requirement is up to the department. The deadline has been moved up so students have more time to have it figure into their decisions. Other fellowships and scholarships will be offered in spring, so remind students to apply. MOA-19/12, which defined full time status for dissertation/thesis credits, creates full-time status for students as one credit for loan deferment status. Discussion ensued regarding the new residency policy.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was proposed by Steuer and seconded by Kritzman to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Submitted by Susan Steuer