

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE**

**RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL  
Minutes of 13 February 2020**

**Members Present:** Osama Abudayyeh, Onur Arugaslan, Manuel Bautista, Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Zari K. Carpenter (Graduate Student Association), Steve Carr, Martha Councell-Vargas, Anthony DeFulio, Michael Harnar (for Chris Coryn), David Huffman, Terri Goss Kinzy, Marilyn Kritzman (for Wanda Hadley), Heather Petcovic (designee for Provost Jennifer Bott), Paul Solomon, Susan Steuer, Patti Van Walbeck, Andre Venter

**Guest:** Jim Butterfield, International Education Council

The meeting was called to order by Chair Arugaslan at 2:35 p.m.

**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

*Acceptance of the Agenda*

A motion was made by Carr to take MOA-19/08 Creation of the Eligibility to Serve as WMU Principal Investigators on Sponsored Projects Policy, off the agenda; seconded by Huffman. Bautista moved to add an action item regarding Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (C.2) procedures; seconded by Arugaslan. A motion was made by Bautista and seconded by Solomon to accept the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

*Approval of the Minutes*

A motion was made by Bautista, seconded by Solomon, to approve the minutes of 9 January as amended. Motion carried.

**INFORMATION ITEM**

*International Education Council – Jim Butterfield*

Butterfield distributed a handout outlining the two issues he came to discuss: Recent policies and concerns regarding international research collaboration and funding for international travel. Butterfield noted concern about scrutiny by Federal government about international research which may cause concerns. He also noted that WMU is not as visible as it might be in terms of international ranking systems, which may keep it from having more international students. He proposed a working group of administrators, faculty and staff in encouraging internationalization in research, hiring, recruitment and curriculum and to discuss how we use language and institutional structure to increase this.

Kinzy noted that 1) there has been a problem with Section 117 financial reporting to the Department of Education for some universities. She pointed out that the reporting is difficult and there is a desire for materials to be more clear and transparent. 2) transparency in collaborative research is critical. Funding coming from other countries must be clear to both the institutions and the government to make sure there is no problem with export control and issues of foreign influence.

The Office of Research and Innovation's goal is to help faculty with transparency and compliance to keep them out of trouble. Kinzy has a working group across WMU which is bringing together all of the involved groups to assure our policies are up to date and effective and to work on making all of this as clear and comprehensive as possible to the WMU community.

Butterfield noted that there is no concern on his part about the administrative policies. He just wants to make sure that the University does not inadvertently discourage international work.

He also spoke about international travel. He is concerned that there should be a two-tier system for international travel and more international travel for conferences and research. It was noted that for last year, 25.7% of the travel submitted to the Faculty Research Travel Fund was international. For submitted FRTF reimbursements, the cost of a domestic trip has a median of \$1487.29, while the international trip median was \$2270.67.

**ACTION ITEMS**

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

Arugaslan noted that he has not received feedback from the WMU-AAUP yet, so this item needs to be postponed.

*Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award*

Bautista noted that there has been a problem with the procedures for FRACAA reviewers because it is difficult to recruit reviewers who meet the criteria. Many who agreed to review then applied and could not serve or did not agree to serve. Bautista has had to recruit tenure-track (as opposed to only tenured) faculty and smaller reviewing groups. Bautista, Carr and Kinzy spoke in support of this for this year's cycle. Bautista moved two changes to the existing program description, seconded by Carr. Discussion was held.

*Current language:*

The FRACAA Research Screening Committee will consist of the committee chair and 13 to 20 tenured, bargaining-unit faculty who will comprise three groups of review panels: quantitative sciences, qualitative scholarly, and creative arts.

*New approved language:*

The FRACAA Research Screening Committee will consist of the committee chair and tenured and tenure-track, bargaining-unit faculty who will comprise three groups of review panels: quantitative sciences, qualitative scholarly, and creative arts.

Motion carried.

## UPDATES AND REPORTS

### *Council Chair – Onur Arugaslan*

MOA-19/08 Creation of the Eligibility to Serve as WMU Principal Investigators on Sponsored Projects Policy, was presented at the Senate meeting last week and was approved.

The timeline for Support for Faculty Scholar Award applications and review is 10 March through 2 April.

Arugaslan spoke with Steve Bertman about the interdisciplinary collaborations committee, since he is no longer on sabbatical. Arugaslan is trying to reinvigorate the work to be completed.

### *Vice President for Research and Innovation – Terri Kinzy*

Kinzy spoke about the named professor initiative and the process. There is still time to apply before 24 February. At this time, there is one complete application, but there are almost two weeks before the deadline.

Kinzy also discussed the new hire named professorship support program. Deans know they can submit candidates for the one slot available and review will be on a rolling basis.

The Spring Convocation is coming up on 10 March. There will be two sessions on arts and the humanities and public health which are faculty developed and led, and FRACAA posters and awards.

Discovery Acceleration Workshop on resiliency is 18 February in 3025 Brown Hall, from noon to 1:30 p.m. and includes lunch. Kinzy noted that workshops are available for special groups or topics.

Discussion ensued regarding conflict of interest.

### *Interim Dean of the Graduate College – Christine Byrd-Jacobs*

The Graduate College is working to increase its communication with constituents. Various different newsletters are being sent to different groups about changes at the University, in particular, the graduation application deadline changes.

The three-minute thesis competition was 12 February and the winner will be going to the regional competition in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The second round of research and travel grant applications have come in. There were 40 research applications and 44 travel applications and they will be reviewed soon. There is one more opportunity this spring.

Research and Creative Activities Poster and Performance Day will be 26 March in the Bernhard Center East Ballroom, and is now being administered by the Graduate College. RPC members will be sent an email asking them to participate as poster and performance judges.

Doctoral scholar applications can come in through 14 February for new Ph.D. student recruits. Students need not have been admitted to be submitted, since the deadline has been moved up. Doctoral scholar applications are currently limited to people who completed their undergraduate degree at another institution. DeFulio requested that the Graduate College consider removing this restriction and opening the scholarship to new doctoral students who completed their undergraduate degrees at WMU.

## ADJOURNMENT

A motion was proposed by VanWalbeck and seconded by DeFulio to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

Submitted by Susan Steuer