

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of October 12, 2017

Members Present: Jill Rowe, Steve Bertman, Osama Abudayyeh, Anthony DeFulio, Katherine Joslin, William Homan, Sue Steuer, Sherine Obare, Damon Chambers (Graduate Student Association), Patti Van Walbeck, Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Chris Coryn, James Kiddle (for Andre Venter), Paul Solomon, and Muralidhar Ghantasala

Members Absent: Onur Arugaslan, Stevens Bonhomme (Graduate Student Association) and Martha Councill-Vargas

Guest: Clark Bennet, Director of Technology and Innovation Advancement, Office of the Vice President for Research

The meeting was called to order at 2:36 p.m. by Chair Sue Steuer.

Procedural Items

Acceptance of the Agenda

Bertman moved to approve the agenda as proposed; Ghantasala seconded. The motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Byrd-Jacobs, and seconded by Rowe, to approve the minutes of September 14. It was also moved that the 2017-18 charges be appended to the minutes. The motion carried.

Announcements/Chair's Remarks

Re-elected member Martha Councill-Vargas, from Music, was welcomed, along with Damon Chambers and Stevens Bonhomme, from the Graduate Student Association.

New Business

Old/New Research Policy Review – Sherine Obare

Policy on eligibility as PI/co-PI on grants for WMU.

There was a discussion of proposed changes including definitions of some categories. Concerns were raised about related issues, which will not be incorporated into this policy, but may involve new procedures on Proposal Approval Forms (PAFs). Obare will make the changes and forward this to the council for approval.

Intellectual Property Policy

The policy was revised from the 2007 version to accommodate changed office names and changes in federal law. A vote was held to approve the current draft of

document: Moved by Van Walbeck, seconded by Byrd-Jacobs. The current policy was approved.

Investigating Obstacles to Research – Brainstorming to enlist faculty input (Charge 6) – Sue Steuer

Discussion included the Hanover Report of 2012, which will be redistributed for discussion of the overall findings and particular attention to the comments, with the goal of developing targeted surveys to certain groups of researchers. Concerns about teaching loads and equipment were discussed. Obare noted an effort to create a plan to renew research equipment. Discussion of Hanover Consulting's role and effectiveness ensued.

Continued/Old Business

Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award Utilization Analysis – FRACAA Subcommittee

Jessaca Spybrook will provide a written status report for discussion at the November meeting. It will be distributed prior to next month to allow members to review it before the meeting.

Bertman requested that the council review Support for Faculty Scholar Award guidelines before the spring competition. Ghantasala noted that the requirements changed but not the review form in the competition system was not changed. Melanie Greer, coordinator of data research, in the Office of the Vice President for Research, was notified and will investigate.

Reports

Council Chair – Sue Steuer

No report.

Interim Vice President for Research – Sherine Obare

There was discussion of Transformational Initiative Grants. The OVPR is interested in looking for ways to partner with other groups to transform research. The OVPR is developing a workshop series for undergraduate research and a celebration of undergraduate research week of April 9 which is the National Undergraduate Research Week. April 12 is the graduate poster day.

Acting Dean of the Graduate College – Christine Byrd-Jacobs

The fall three minute thesis competition will be on November 10 at noon in the Bernhard Center, Rooms 157-159.

Adjournment

Van Walbeck moved to adjourn; Bertman seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Paul Solomon, Secretary