

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 9 November 2017

Members Present: Osama Abudayyeh, Onur Arugaslan, Steve Bertman, Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Martha Councell-Vargas, Anthony DeFulio, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Katherine Joslin, Sherine Obare, Jill Rowe, Paul Solomon, Sue Steuer, and Betty McKain (for Patti VanWalbeck)
Members Absent: Stevens Bonhomme, Damon Chambers, Chris Coryn, William Homan, James Kiddle (for Andre Venter)

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

A. Procedural Items

1. *Acceptance of the Agenda*

Rowe moved to approve the agenda as proposed; DeFulio seconded. The motion carried.

2. Approval of Minutes of 12 October

A motion was made by Arugaslan and supported, to approve the minutes of 12 October. The motion carried.

B. Discussion/Information Items

1. *Research Policies Council/International Education Council Committee – Chris Coryn*

There was no report.

2. *Research Tools Subcommittee – Muralidhar K. Ghantasala*

Ghantasala said that the sub-committee is almost assembled. Obare will join the first meeting and provide inventory on instrumentation from the Office of the Vice President for Research.

3. *Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA) process update – Steve Bertman*

FRACAA groups are almost fully recruited. The new information ready system is working and Bertman has been working with OVPR to do some tweaking with the company.

4. *FRACAA Utilization Sub-committee – Steve Bertman*

C. Continued/Old Business

1. *Old/New Research Policy Review – Sherine Obare*

A. *Policy on Eligibility as PI/co-PI on Grants for WMU*

The revised draft was approved with additional definitions provided in this version.

B. *Intellectual Property Policy – Memorandum Of Action*

Byrd-Jacobs moved, supported by Bertman, to approve the revised draft to move forward as an MOA to the Faculty Senate Executive Board. The motion carried.
Obare will prepare.

2. *Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award Utilization Analysis Descriptive Report – Steve Bertman and Chris Coryn*

This award carries with it a condition requiring submission of an external grant for at least the amount awarded. The system for keeping track of whether this has been done is not smooth and does not require that the grant be for the same project, but only by the same PI. The study hoped to determine whether the program was resulting in more and stronger applications for external grants and this report is somewhat inconclusive. There is difficulty in knowing what data may be most meaningful.

There was discussion about the nature of grants in the humanities and fine arts. DeFulio offered to work with the numbers and see if he could tease out additional information.

3. *Investigating Obstacles to Research – begin reviewing the Hanover Report – Sherine Obare*

There is a need for more funding to support pursuit of grants. There was discussion about how to strengthen the culture for greater pursuit of grants for research. There were few surprises in this report.

D. New Business

1. *Supporting Grant Applicants That Require Cost Share*

The practice of requesting cost share is inconsistent across campus. Some faculty go to their deans, others work with OVPR, others muddle through on their own. There was discussion of ways to inform grant seekers about appropriate routes (flow chart, instructions) to seek cost share in plenty of time to create a viable budget. This will be further explored by OVPR and guidelines will be presented for discussion in future meetings.

2. *Support for Faculty Scholar Award Update*

Discussion was held about restriction on travel in the SFSA applications. Steuer will work with Melanie Greer in OVPR on language for the next round to clarify. There was discussion of open office hours for SFSA applicants.

Reports

1. Council Chair – Sue Steuer

No report.

2. Interim Vice President for Research – Sherine Obare

There was discussion of transformational grant initiatives

3. Acting Dean of the Graduate College – Christine Byrd-Jacobs

Student Travel Grants and Research Grants were awarded. It is preparing for 3 minute thesis competition.

Abudayyeh announced that elected members who cannot attend should send representatives and notify the chair.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Joslin, seconded by Abudayyeh, to adjourn. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Paul Solomon
Council Secretary