

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 7 December 2017

Members Present: Osama Abudayyeh, Onur Arugaslan, Steve Bertman, Stevens Bonhomme, Chris Coryn, Anthony DeFulio, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Willem Homan, Katherine Joslin, James Kiddle (for Andre Venter), Betty McKain (for Patti VanWalbeck), Sherine Obare, Jill Rowe, Paul Solomon, Sue Steuer

Members Absent: Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Damon Chambers, Martha Council-Vargas

The meeting was called to order at 2:32 p.m. by Chair Sue Steuer.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

A motion was made by Rowe to accept the agenda, seconded by Joslin. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Joslin, seconded by Ghantasala, to approve the minutes of 9 November 2017. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS

Research Policies Council/International Education Council Committee; Notification of Survey – Chris Coryn

The committee (chaired by Mary Lagerwey) has met twice. Coryn will have a draft of the survey in January.

Research Tools Subcommittee – Muralidhar K. Ghantasala

Ghantasala reported on a recent meeting of the committee, about research tools. Obare discussed with the council methodologies to most efficiently assess tools on campus. She reported that there are existing lists. There was discussion as to the best method to collate and update the lists. Potential concern was expressed about the capability of a student assisting in this process. There is a need for a template. Associate deans will be providing existing lists to the committee. Departments will be asked for updates to existing information.

CONTINUED / OLD BUSINESS

Procedures for Formally Requesting Cost Share – Obare

A paper copy of the draft procedure was distributed to members. They discussed the 'chain of command' to be consulted regarding cost shares: PI would go to whomever the individual reports to, and not 'jump' to a higher level administrator. There is a prospect of a flow chart being provided. Timeline was discussed. A stipulation was noted that the procedure is for "required" cost shares only. There was a suggestion that 'ballpark' estimates be provided.

Review of Support for Faculty Scholar Award Rating Scale

This was distributed by Ghantasala. A motion was made by Bertman, supported by Rowe, to approve the 'new' rating scale. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Strategies for Recognizing Excellence in Faculty Research and Scholarship – Obare

A "Million Dollar Club" luncheon was hosted by the Office of the Vice President for Research for individuals over a 5-year period who have obtained one million dollars. This tends to be the same group year after year and does not fully recognize fields in which that cash level is not normal. Recognition of excellence in scholarship instead, as submitted by the colleges, was discussed. There was discussion about varied indices for achievement, and diversifying selections. The office will 'test drive' it.

There was discussion of marketing issues and how to get the WMU research story out; its contribution to the University and community. Extended discussion of contemporary marketing challenges was held.

Updated Language for Support for Faculty Scholar Award Website; Reminder of Changes Approved Last Year to Forms – Sue Steuer

There was a motion to approve updated language for SFSA guidelines made by Bertman and supported by Ghantasala. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Council Chair – Steuer

There was no report.

Interim Vice President for Research – Obare

There was discussion by Obare about "Recharge rates". The question was asked: What is the policy if grant recipient needs/wants to charge for use of equipment provided by a grant by outside parties for individual jobs? Betty McKain, director of grants and contracts, added information about procedures to develop rates for usage and the need to avoid competing with commercial businesses. Discussion ensued.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Kiddle, seconded by Ghantasala. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.
Paul Solomon, Council Secretary