

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 14 January 2016
Room 204 (Martin Luther King), Bernhard Center

Members present: Osama Abudayyeh, Steve Bertman, Lori Brown, Paul Ciccantell, Martha Councell-Vargas, Robin Criter, Cat Crotchett, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Paula Kohler (for Daniel Litynski), David Rudge, Susan Stapleton, Susan Steuer, Betty McKain (for Patti Van Walbeck), Andre Venter

Members Absent: Udaya Wagle, Muhammad Razi, Kate Hibbard-Gibbons, Bob Bensley

Guests: Suzan Ayers, Faculty Senate Executive Board Director, and Tim Greene, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Council Chair Paul Ciccantell called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

Procedural Items

Acceptance of the Agenda

A motion was made by Abudayyeh, seconded by Venter, to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of 10 December 2015

Rudge moved, supported by Criter, to approve the minutes of the 10 December meeting. Motion carried.

Continued/Old Business

*Internationalization Memorandum of Action: Joint Working Group
with International Education Council*

Duke Leingpibul has agreed to serve on the IEC joint working group to discuss adding further research components to this MOA. Some individuals who are not on this council can be recommended. Venter also agreed to serve. Kohler recommended Steve Malcolm (Biological Sciences), and Elizabeth Whitten (Special Education and Literacy Studies). Rudge asked if a visiting scholar might be a good option to include; Stapleton noted that the Haenicke Institute for Global Education might have a list. Brown recommended Raymond Thompson from Aviation. Julia Mays, associate director of research compliance in Research and Sponsored Programs, also has experience working with faculty on sensitive subjects regarding internationalization and export control. Osama Abudayyeh volunteered and suggested Patti Van Walbeck also be involved.

Ciccantell asked for potential agenda items. Rudge asked if the working group would have a research focus and if that was the role of our recommended members. Ciccantell noted that this was designed to expand the MOA or issue

another to include more internationalization of research. Ciccantell said much of the earlier discussion was about the operationalization of internationalization. In addition, facilities to host international visitors, promotion of study abroad, and promotion of international collaboration were discussed. Kohler outlined some of the issues for those who win international grants, such as exchange rates and conflicting policies.

Ciccantell asked that those who have volunteered keep the council informed.

Work Plans for RPC Charges Subcommittees

Ciccantell asked the subcommittees to commit to working to accomplish our charges and that we have only four more meetings planned. He hopes to avoid meeting in June. He anticipates that most of these tasks will continue into next year.

Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award Utilization Group is going to work with the Hanover report to inform their work. Bertman hoped that the committee would plan to report progress in March to see if something can be accomplished this year, or if further surveys are needed.

Support for Faculty Scholar Award Working Group: This group is Bensley (absent), Councell-Vargas and Steuer and they will plan to report in April.

Dual Appointments: Rudge spoke with Lynne Heasley (History, and Environmental and Sustainability Studies) and identified some issues which should be discussed. He would like to give a progress report in February. Rudge is still recruiting individuals from different types of units so that the discussion can be abstract. Kohler would like one to be an active grant awardee. Kohler and McKain noted that the reporting of these types of grants is an ongoing problem because it is hard to make the reports reflect joint appointments. The division of Facilities & Administrative (F&A) costs and intellectual credit is a problem. Some concerns discussed may need to be resolved at the college level or via the AAUP.

Discussion of Potential Issues for Charge 9: Obstacles to Research and Creative Activities Subcommittee

This material was discussed during the provost's time, following.

Discussion / Information Items

Provost Tim Greene joined the meeting to touch base with the RPC and invited questions.

Bertman asked about research plans at the Medical School. Greene noted a new associate dean for research at WMed. The Southwest Michigan Innovation Center (SMIC) has been acquired for drug-related research. It will be managed by WMed to create better ties with community research. They have hired some scientists and will begin to prepare labs on the empty floors of the facility. Kohler notes issues with combining the reports of WMU and WMed for grants. Because

there is no tenure at WMed, which has non-traditional classes, some of the issues will be very different. Bertman notes that there are faculty in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields who would like to know more for potential collaboration. Bertman notes that self-reported lack of information is one of the points in the Hanover report, and he would like to see improvement in this area.

Ciccantell recommended that we invite the WMed associate dean for research to come and talk to RPC. A new Master of Science in Medical Engineering will be forthcoming which is a WMed degree but several classes will be supplied by the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Research Classifications: Western retained its status. Eastern Michigan University became a doctoral institution and Central Michigan University raised its level to the same status as ours. This data is through 2014, and the next set of data will be compiled beginning next academic year. The classifications have changed names this year. A new foundation, Lumina, has taken over the process and some criteria will probably change again in coming rounds, which has implications for determining peer institutions, for recruiting and for marketing. We did change to a residential university. Professional degrees do not count, even at the doctoral level.

Ciccantell asked about obstacles to research and creative activities from the administrative perspective. Greene noted that start-up funds for facilities for scientists and engineers to upgrade labs and other necessities were always slim. Internal obstacles within the faculty to research and doctoral programs exist, including a desire to return to a teaching mission. There is concern about attracting adequate doctoral students for research activities and to maintain programs. We need to fund students through grants and contracts to maintain enrollment numbers for the teaching programs. Greene believes faculty should have grants to support two to three graduate students or they are limiting the size of their programs. Rudge noted that there are limits on the amount of funding which grants supply. Bertman wants to know how we change the culture to one of research grant seeking. Rudge asked for information on how the focus can come to better include creative activities and outside funding which does not require the PAF system. Kohler discussed some aspects of this. Greene noted that we need named professorships and chairs to add funds to help support a faculty member and her or his research. These named professorships can help faculty grow and would help create a culture of research.

Reports

Council Chair – Paul Ciccantell

No report

Vice President for Research – Paula Kohler (for Daniel Litynski)

Kohler distributed a report from the office based upon a retreat for the Office of the Vice President for Research in August based upon the survey. The survey

report should have been disseminated in April and she apologizes. She also distributed information for the research expenditures thus far.

Kohler would like to have RPC work on generating excitement around the Spring Convocation on Thursday, February 4, and asked the council to please save the date. Postcards will be sent soon. She also repeated grant deadlines.

Kohler also discussed the planning process for Research Poster Day. It is scheduled for Thursday, April 14, in the morning. The Graduate College is heavily involved.

Dean of the Graduate College – Susan Stapleton

- Three minute thesis graduate talks applications are due February 5 and the competition will be February 19. Students are following international competition guidelines.
- Working with a group to submit a planning grant through the NEH for revamping doctoral work in the humanities. Looking at alternative careers, ways to change the publication format and expectations.
- Survey for the strategic plan – She noted that this survey could dovetail with the OVPR survey regarding research issues and encouraged the group to look at both surveys together.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Rudge, seconded by Crotchett, to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on February 11, 2016 at 2 p.m. in the Faculty Dining Room of the Bernhard Center. This will begin with SFSA reviews.

Susan Steuer
Secretary