

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL

Minutes of 19 May 2016

Martin Luther King Jr. Room 204, Bernhard Center

Members present: Michele Behr (substitute for Susan Steuer), Lori Brown, Sharon Carlson, Paul Ciccantell, Chris Coryn, Martha Councell-Vargas, Robin Criter, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Kate Hibbard-Gibbons, Daniel Litynski, Betty McKain (substitute for Patti Van Walbeck), David Rudge, Susan Stapleton, Andre Venter

Guests: Dr. Dale Vandre, Associate Dean for Research, Professor and Chair, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine; Paula Kohler, Associate Vice President for Research

Council Chair Paul Ciccantell called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Procedural Items

Acceptance of the Agenda

A motion was made by Rudge, seconded by Carlson, to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of 14 April 2016

A motion was made by Rudge, supported by Coryn, to approve the minutes of the 14 April meeting. Motion carried.

New Business

Discussion of Potential Research Collaboration with WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine – Dr. Dale Vandre, Associate Dean for Research, Professor and Chair, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine

Dr. Vandre was present to discuss opportunities for collaboration. He has been at the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine for 3 ½ years. He was initially involved in building the medical curriculum and became Associate Dean for Research last fall. He came from Ohio State and previously served on the faculty at Southern Methodist University. Dr. Vandre reviewed research opportunities and research components at WMed. There was also discussion about opportunities for collaboration including a joint master's program in medical engineering, an MD/PhD program, and the RIB process. There is a Health Informatics program that will begin this fall as a certificate program for current health care professionals. There was discussion about how to facilitate communication and collaboration between WMU and WMed.

*MOA-16/12 Dual Use of Research Concern Policy – Paula Kohler
Associate Vice President for Research*

Paula Kohler reported that the National Institutes of Health requires this policy. WMU currently has a biosafety committee which reviews protocols.

A motion was made by Kohler, seconded by Rudge, to endorse MOA-16/12 Dual Use of Research Concern Policy. Motion carried. It will be passed to the Senate for a meeting in the fall.

Election of Officers for 2016-17

A motion was made by Kohler, seconded by Rudge, to elect the current slate of officers. Ciccantell will serve as council chair. Chris Coryn will serve as council vice chair, and Susan Steuer will serve as secretary. Motion carried.

Continued/Old Business

Review of RPC Charges for 2015-16 and Proposed Charges for 2016-17

Charges 2015-16

In addition to its specific responsibilities listed in the Research Policies Council's role statement and the work of subcommittees if such exist, the Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the RPC to consider, as a committee of the whole or through the appropriate subcommittee or task force, the following issues:

1. Address any continuing or outstanding issues or initiatives as deemed necessary by the council. To the extent possible conclude any outstanding initiative by producing a memorandum of action, report or resolution.

This is an ongoing concern and will be reviewed next year.

2. Monitor the implementation of the University Policy on Data Collection through Surveys.

This was completed in 2015-16.

3. Conduct yearly review of the state of the research ethics policies and procedures in collaboration with the Vice President for Research. Initiate changes or additions where appropriate. (Taken from WMU Self-Study Report.)

This was completed according to Kohler.

4. Conduct a review of the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA) program with the goal of increasing its utilization by faculty, including investigating strategies to increase the number of quality proposals submitted across all disciplines.

Steve Bertman and David Rudge oversaw this activity. The subcommittee would like to supplement the use of surveys with some interviews. Rudge distributed some of the questions. He will do the RIB. Coryn has some additional data so this could be a longitudinal study. The consensus was that this is a good idea. Expect to hear more about this in September.

5. Develop consistent external submission language related to FRACAA awards and recommend changes as deemed necessary to ensure the FRACAA funding program is consistent with the purpose of the program and is available to faculty from all disciplines.

This Memorandum of Action was passed earlier this year and passed by the Faculty Senate.

6. Continue review of Support for Faculty Scholar Award proposals and revise the guidelines and review process to encourage faculty from all disciplines to submit quality proposals.

This will be discussed in September.

7. Develop a policy for providing official formal credit to those with dual appointments or who serve as co-PIs on externally funded research projects whose PIs are housed in other university units.

This is still in process.

8. Develop a procedure for the regular review of university policies related to research by the RPC and a schedule for conducting these regular reviews on a five-year rotating basis.

This is in process over the summer and will be considered in the fall.

9. Investigate the obstacles to research and creative activities from the perspective of the faculty and consider diversity and inclusion issues as they relate to the role of RPC.

Ciccantell would like to continue the discussion. In general, there needs to be a better mechanism to report concerns so that RPC may better address them. Improving communication channels and feedback was also cited. At one point, the Faculty Senate used to have open forum

discussions. There was discussion about the fact that most people did not know RPC existed until they were asked to serve. How does the Senate flow out the information? Can we find a way to more effectively communicate? There was a time with Faculty Senate that the councils would report out at a designated meeting. Carlson will take this to the Executive Board.

Charges for the Coming Year, 2016-17

Policy Review – Review of policies every year with the goal of all policies reviewed during a five-year cycle. This could be announced at Faculty Senate meetings and requests for feedback solicited.

Pay and Compensation Policies – Federal regulations have changed. These changes will be brought through the council as appropriate.

Data Management – There is a working group at WMU. The National Science Foundation requires data management plans and required inclusion in data repositories. It is looking at security, resources (for storage and costs), and the approval processes. The ad hoc group includes representation from a number of areas across the University.

Export Control – This was first passed in 2008. Now Export Control is an ever-moving target and there are many new concerns.

Conflicts of Interest – WMU has a policy required by NIH but it doesn't touch on all of the other groups and issues such as nepotism, partner/marital situations. The NIH policy is very narrow and focuses on industry sponsored research. There is a proposal that is under review.

Intellectual Property – Michael Sharer, who was in the Office of the Vice President for Research, worked on this in 2006. Disclosure forms were revised. Centers and Institutes policies may be reviewed for consistency.

Policy on Internationalization – Venter reported that the group has had one meeting. They are in the data gathering phase and will provide updates.

Reports

Council Chair – Paul Ciccantell

Ciccantell did not have additional information to report.

Vice President for Research – Daniel Litynski

The FRACAA spending program was reported. The travel fund is still making awards. Continue to submit requests.

Dean of the Graduate College – Susan Stapleton

Stapleton is working on web pages and with John Risley, from Research and Sponsored Programs, to update tools for graduate students seeking funding. Stapleton would like to get all graduate students thinking about funding. Starting this summer every new graduate student will be required to take a course on responsible research and ethics. This course will become a prerequisite for any student going through the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board. It is considered a best practice in graduate education.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

The June meeting is canceled. Meetings for 2016-17 will be arranged over the summer and provided to council members by email.

Sharon Carlson
Acting Secretary