

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL  
Minutes of 21 January 2010

**Members present:** Brooks Applegate, Carla Chase (for Mary Ann Stark), Van Cooley, Chris Coryn, Eileen Evans (for Provost Greene), Lin Foulk, Greg Laing, Tianshu Liu, Daniel Litynski, Paula Kohler, Carrie Leatherman, Julie Nemire (for Lewis Pyenson), Vladimir Risukhin, Jan Van Der Kley (for Vice President Rinker), Alan Wuosmaa, Steven Ziebarth

**Also present:** Walter Worthy, Research and Sponsored Programs

Chair Steven Ziebarth called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes of 12 November 2009**

A motion was made by Applegate and seconded by Leatherman to approve the minutes of 12 November 2009. Motion passed.

RPC member Carla Chase asked for permission to ask advice of the council. Health and Human Services met with accrediting agencies last week. Their accreditation body suggested the college did not have enough qualitative methodology training. Applegate suggested that his unit (Educational Leadership, Research, and Technology) offers courses that might help Health and Human Services fulfill those requirements.

**Reports of Officers**

*Council Chair – Steven Ziebarth*

The RPC welcomed new member Chris Coryn from the Evaluation Center who filled the representative-at-large faculty position.

RPC was contacted to set up a forum as part of Dr. Daniel Litynski's interview for the vice president for research position. There was a two-hour discussion and many RPC members were present. Ziebarth introduced Litynski who thanked everyone for attending the discussion and looks forward to serving in his new position.

Ziebarth thanked those RPC members who served on a recent subcommittee that put together a formal response from RPC to the provost regarding the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan. Ziebarth met with Provost Tim Greene last week and Greene thanked the council for its response and indicated that he would like to attend future RPC meetings to get input from council members on various items.

*Office of the Associate Vice President for Research – Paula Kohler*

Kohler announced the faculty **Technology Development Awards** are currently in the review process. There are four applications for the up to \$20,000 awards. Usually a lot of proposals are submitted from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, but Kohler stressed the award is open to faculty across the University who are working on technology developments.

The next deadline for **Support for Faculty Scholars Awards** is 29 January and information is available on the Office of the Vice President for Research Web site. Applegate asked what OVPR is doing to better publicize this award. It is currently posted on the OVPR Web site, posters were distributed to every department in the fall semester, and Kohler has been meeting personally with many departments. Kohler urges RPC members to remind associate deans in their colleges to send a message to the faculty concerning the award because an email directly to the entire faculty from the OVPR is not possible due to the University's policy regarding unsolicited messages to the faculty.

OVPR held two **workshops for office coordinators** and over 70 attended. These workshops discussed the fiscal procedures for internal funding awards. The participant evaluations indicated the workshops were successful.

Submissions and awards to date FY 2009-10 are as follows: 144 proposals submitted (\$53,014,587) and 48 awards were funded (\$17,010,357).

Kohler updated the committee on the **National Science Foundation requirement for training in ethical conduct of research**. This new requirement is effective for proposals submitted 4 January and is required of all students and postdocs (Kohler clarified it's required for anybody who can be called a trainee). The Research Ethics Team, led by Vicki Jansen, OVPR, has identified components of the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) program for providing basic training and is continuing to work on enhancing the basics with other opportunities. More information can be found at: <http://www.citiprogram.org> OVPR is establishing a notification protocol for principal investigators as grants are awarded.

Walt Worthy provided an update on the **Faculty Research And Creative Activities Award program**. Forty-one proposals were submitted, which is down from last year, and the review committees are meeting next week.

The deadline for **Research Development Awards** has been extended to 8 March and information will be distributed via dean's offices. This award is focused on assisting faculty to develop external funding proposals. The amount is up to \$2,500.

The **Earmark** proposal process was announced last fall and twenty-two white papers have been submitted. Nine have moved forward to the next step, which is a presentation to OVPR and Legislative Affairs, and approximately two will be selected from these proposals to move onto the final level.

A **research and creative activity display** has been dedicated to faculty research in the main entrance of the Bernhard Center. January featured research from Health and Human Services; February will be dedicated to Arts and Sciences; March will feature Fine Arts and Engineering; and April will be dedicated to Education and Business. Aviation will be invited to display its research in the fall. Walt Worthy is coordinating these displays.

OVPR will host **Research and Dessert** on 22 January in the Fetzer Center. The focus of this event is on faculty resources, collaboration, and connections for enhancing and sustaining faculty scholarship. Both pre-organized and ad-hoc demonstrations will be presented on a variety of research topics.

*Graduate College Office – Julie Nemire for Lewis Pyenson*

Nemire updated the committee on Research and Travel grants for students. The Graduate College has received a lot of applications in the third of four rounds and will make the announcements before spring break. Discussion ensued and Nemire clarified that asking for less money doesn't necessarily make the award more or less likely to be funded.

### **Continued Business**

#### *Conflict of Interest Policy*

There is an established policy, but OVPR would like a recommendation on the implementation and procedures of the policy. Kohler said WMU's policy is passive while other universities' conflict of interest policies are more active. Ziebarth said RPC will form a subcommittee to look at this policy at the next meeting.

#### *Celebration of Research Day 2010*

Carla Chase agreed to work on organizing this year's event. Chris Coryn volunteered to work with her as did student RPC member Greg Laing. Ziebarth said that RPC executive committee members would also help as needed. Walt Worthy said that former RPC member and former chair of this committee, Sue Stapleton, has agreed to advise the chair and organizer of the 2010 event. The date has been set for April 9 in order to coordinate with another university event that uses the same poster boards. Two nominees are invited to present from each department as well as graduate student and Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award awardees.

### **New Business**

Evans distributed Emerging Scholar Award guidelines. RPC members are asked to submit nominations for reviewers of the ESA at the February meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Evans made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Applegate. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lin Foulk, College of Fine Arts Representative for RPC