

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL  
Minutes of 11 March 2010

**Members present:** Brooks Applegate, Carla Chase (for Mary Ann Stark), Chris Coryn, Sime Curkovic, Eileen Evans (for Provost Tim Greene), Lin Foulk, Daniel Litynski, Tianshu Liu, Jan Van Der Kley (for Vice President Lowell Rinker), Carrie Leatherman, Lewis Pyenson, Steven Ziebarth **Also present:** Paula Kohler, associate vice president for research, Walter Worthy, Research and Sponsored Programs

Chair Steven Ziebarth called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes of 18 February 2010**

A motion was made by Evans and seconded by Leatherman to approve the minutes of 18 February 2010. Motion passed.

**Approval of Agenda of 11 March 2010**

A motion was made by Van Der Kley and seconded by Kohler to approve the agenda of 11 March 2010. Motion passed.

**Reports of Officers**

*Graduate College Office—Lewis Pyenson*

Over 100 doctorates will be given by the end of the summer. The Graduate College is facilitating the application for an Integrative Graduate Education Research Training (IGERT) grant through the National Science Foundation. Eleven faculty members from nine departments are working on this grant. The preliminary proposal deadline is 29 March.

*Office of the Vice President for Research—Daniel Litynski and Paula Kohler*

Fifteen proposals for the Research Development Award have been received and the proposals will be reviewed soon. The committee hopes to have decisions made by 15 April. A display case in the Bernhard Center is being used to increase the visibility of faculty research on campus and it currently features research from Art and Engineering. OVPR is hosting two upcoming workshops: one on grant development for Research Development Award winners as well as other participants and another on preparing budgets for grant proposals (the latter will take place 7 April from noon-1:30 in room 209 of the Bernhard Center). They are coordinating these workshops with Andrea Beach, director of faculty development in Online Education. OVPR will do an electronic survey to better respond to faculty and staff needs and to prioritize future workshop topics.

OVPR is collecting boilerplates from colleges and units to help the entire university more efficiently apply for grants. Boiler plates already received may be found on the OVPR Web site (click on "proposal development tools," then under Pre-award process click on "Boilerplate Language.")

Built specifically for OVPR, a database is being created that gives PIs access to bucksheets for each of their grants through the OVPR Web site. Electronic signatures will be available with this new system as well. This new system will allow OVPR to gather data directly from the PIs to make the process more efficient.

*Council Chair—Steven Ziebarth*

Eleven Support for Faculty Scholar Awards (SFSA) were submitted and five were funded. Letters will be sent to all the applicants soon. Several RPC members are preparing explanation letters to help those not funded to apply again with better results. Those letters will be finished on Monday, 15 March.

**Continued Business**

*Conflict of Interest Policy Report*

No report.

*Celebration of Research Day*

This year there will be the largest number of presenters yet: 40 graduate students and 20 Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award awardees. Fourteen judges have agreed to review the posters at the event and more are being contacted. Ziebarth thanked the committee for the success so far in planning for this event.

*Nominations for Emerging Scholar Award Review Committee—Eileen Evans*

Several faculty members were nominated and the RPC chose the following to be invited to serve on the committee: Zhen Ping Shen, Education (Educational Leadership, Research and Technology); Bilinda Straight, Anthropology; Nicki Nelson, Health and Human Services.

**New Business**

*Election of a Chair of the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award Committee—Steven Ziebarth*

The FRACAA chair serves a two-year term and the current chair, Brooks Applegate, is completing his second year. RPC members have been asked to send nominations for FRACAA chair to RPC Chair Steven Ziebarth in advance of the next meeting (April 8) so the committee can vote on 8 April.

**Adjournment**

Kohler made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Liu. Motion passed.  
The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

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