

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of September 11, 2014

Members present: Osama Abudayyeh, Steve Bertman, Lori Brown, Paul Ciccantell, Martha Councell-Vargas, Provost Tim Greene, Dan Litynski, David Rudge, Jessaca Spybrook, Sue Stapleton, Patti VanWalbeck, Andre Venter, Udaya Wagle. **Also present:** C. Dennis Simpson, Faculty Senate President; Keith Hearit, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Miranda Howard, University Libraries

Procedural Items

Acceptance of the Agenda

A motion was made by Bertman, seconded by Rudge, to add to the agenda discussion of Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award guidelines. Motion carried. Rudge moved to accept the agenda as amended, supported by Litynski. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of June 12, 2014

A motion was made by Rudge, seconded by Wagle, to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2014 meeting. Motion carried.

Dennis Simpson offered a staff member for secretary for the fall. Sue Steuer has volunteered as secretary for spring.

Discussion/Information Items

C. Dennis Simpson, Faculty Senate President

Simpson thanked council members for volunteering time and service. Council charges were presented: 1) Elect a secretary (Susan). Reminder: we do not involve ourselves in discussions about AAUP contracts. Senate does not vote on contracts. We can vote to send an opinion to WMU or AAUP but not to change anything in the contract. We can vote to interpret wording in a certain way. 2) Look at the budget model (developed 39 years ago). The research part of that will fall to the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Simpson thanked Paul Ciccantell for taking on the role of chair of RPC.

Presentation of charges:
"Bubble up, not top down."

- discuss adding to or subtracting from the charges
- Senate Executive Board should not be dictating to councils
- Senate Executive Board will abide by the changes made by RPC

Provost Tim Greene

- Centers and institutes are approved in a certain way
- Grant center created: Allows OVPR to create a center on the fly because some funders require a "center" which exists while the funding occurs
- The Provost's Office is reviewing all centers and making sure their reporting is current and websites are up-to-date.
- This review is parallel to the academic program review.
- A new associate dean of libraries has been named – May Chang. The provost suggests we invite her to a meeting. Her specialty is information technology and libraries.

Simpson: Change in language in the proposed contract relative to FRACAA. Some RPC members have concerns about how to interpret that language. This council can say based on the language proposed in the contract – they will interpret the language in the following way...etc.

External funding is still considered external, even if there are no Facilities and Administrative (F&A) recovery/indirect costs.

Rudge reminded us that there are some scholars at WMU for whom the funding is directed to the individual. There are prestigious awards that do not go through the OVPR – it is not external funding to the University, it is external funding to the individual, but these awards still deserve recognition.

Bertman asked Provost Greene to comment on the role of research and creative activities within the scope of the academic program review:

The provost responded: There are programs with very little research associated with their work. In the review, they will have a small research component. There are other programs (doctoral, for instance) with a larger research component. Possible observations: there were great opportunities for external funding for graduate students in this area. There seem to be opportunities to seek external funding for students in this program. There seems to be a preponderance of coursework in this doctoral program and less focus on research. Perhaps the faculty should focus more on the research than coursework in this program. Ratio of doctoral students to faculty is too large. Perhaps that ratio should indicate a need for more individual time with professors. There appears to be great opportunity for international opportunities in this field but much of the research is focused locally. So it makes sense to have different levels of expectations for different units.

There has been a call put out to find tenured faculty to work to review the reports and make observations. Thirty faculty with all colleges represented. Three or four faculty take a set of the reviews. Each review should be about ten or 15 pages each. Use the rubric that the committee worked on to make observations. Three or four people talk about their observations and create a report. Those observations go to the dean; the dean adds observations.

This is a review process, not a planning process. Take a hard look at the curriculum, etc. We have almost as many concentrations as tenure-track faculty (600). Provost Greene says that's too many. The provost is looking forward to more cross-disciplinary degrees (i.e. Aviation works with the MBA program for their masters, etc.)

New Business

Election of a New Secretary

Brown nominated Steuer to serve as council secretary, seconded by VanWalbeck. Steuer was elected secretary of RPC in the spring. We will have secretarial assistance from the Faculty Senate beginning in the next meeting.

Funding Allocation for 2014-2015

A motion to accept the proposed allocation for Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund for 2014-15 was made by Abudayyeh, seconded by Bertman. Unanimously approved.

Support for Faculty Scholar Award Review Procedures for Next Meeting

A discussion ensued with regard to proposed changes in the SFSA guidelines, particularly the language detailing issues of nepotism. A member of the review committee may find him/herself too close to a proposal to formulate an unbiased, objective opinion about a proposal. In this case a member may decide to recuse him or herself from the vote but to contribute to the discussion as needed, as an expert in the field.

A motion to amend by adding the following sentence to the SFSA guidelines: "Failure to disclose may lead to appropriate action." was made by Bertman, seconded by Spybrook. Three SFSA document revisions unanimously approved.

SFSA Review: Proposals are distributed randomly to smaller groups for review. Review meeting takes place on October 9 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. with the RPC meeting beginning at 3:30pm. RPC is in agreement on this procedural change.

Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award Guidelines

A motion to approve FRACAA Guidelines' language changes was made by Abudayyeh, seconded by Ghantasala: Conflict of interest paragraph on p. 8. "If a proposal is assigned for review..." should be inserted before the last sentence of that paragraph. Add also the sentence regarding potential consequences (same as SFSA revision). Motion to approve these and other grammatical/technical changes was made by all, unanimously approved.

Discussion of 2014-15 Council Charges

Hold off on discussion of charges etc. Travel and research graduate grant deadline is September 17th.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Martha Councell-Vargas
Acting Secretary

Summary of FRACASF Allocations and Expenditures

FY 2009 – 2010: Total Fund = \$465,000

Program	Allocation	Award Max	# Awards	\$ Awarded	Balance
FRACAA	\$180,000	\$10,000	24	\$227,470	(\$47,470)
SFSA	\$70,000	\$2,000	14	\$26,642	\$43,358
FRTF	\$205,000	\$850	262	\$210,160	(\$5,160)
PPP&E	\$10,000	\$500	30	\$11,905	(\$1,905)
Total	\$465,000		330	\$476,177	(\$11,177)

FY 2010 – 2011: Total Fund = \$475,000 — Allocations and award max established by RPC, September 9, 2010

Program	Allocation	Award Max	# Awards	\$ Awarded	Balance	% Alloc of Total Fund	% Awarded of all Awards	% Awarded of Prog Alloc
FRACAA	\$210,000	\$10,000	16	\$145,654	\$64,346	44.21	33.39	69.36
SFSA	\$50,000	\$2,000	38	\$63,576	(\$13,576)	10.53	14.58	127.15
FRTF	\$205,000	\$850	261	\$217,012	(\$12,012)	43.16	49.75	105.86
PPP&E	\$10,000	\$500	30	\$9,943	\$57	2.11	2.28	99.43
Total	\$475,000		328	\$436,185	\$38,815	100.00	100.00	91.83

FY 2011 – 2012: Total Fund = \$475,000 — Allocations and award max established by RPC, September 15, 2011

Program	Allocation*	Award Max	# Awards	\$ Awarded	Balance	% Alloc of Total Fund	% Awarded of all Awards	% Awarded of Prog Alloc
FRACAA	\$180,000	\$10,000	21	204,434	(\$24,434)	35.79	39.05	113.57
SFSA	\$70,000	\$2,000	26	\$49,417	\$20,583	13.92	9.44	70.60
FRTF	\$240,000	\$900	295	\$249,686	(\$9,686)	47.71	47.69	104.04
PPP&E	\$13,000	\$600	49	\$20,006	(\$7,006)	2.58	3.82	153.89
Total	\$503,000		391	\$523,543	(\$20,543)	100.00	100.00	104.08

*Allocations include \$28,000 carried forward from FY 2010 – 2011.

Per RPC, the balance of 2010-11 funds (\$10,815) to be used in a specific program as needed

FY 2012 – 2013: Total Fund = \$475,000 — Allocations and award max established by RPC, September 13, 2012

Program	Allocation	Award Max	# Awards	\$ Awarded	Balance	% Alloc of Total Fund	% Awarded of all Awards	% Awarded of Prog Alloc
FRACAA	\$197,000	\$10,000	18	\$169,524	\$27,476	41.47	35.90	86.05
SFSA	\$55,000	\$2,000	25	\$47,887	\$7,113	11.58	10.14	87.07
FRTF	\$205,000	\$850	286	\$235,043	(\$30,043)	43.16	49.78	114.66
PPP&E	\$18,000	\$500	54	\$19,718	(\$1,718)	3.79	4.18	109.54
Total	\$475,000		383	472,172	2,828	100.00	100.00	99.40

Note - Two FRACAA awards declined

FY 2013 – 2014: Total Fund = \$475,000 — Allocations and award max established by RPC, September 12, 2013

Program	Allocation	Award Max	# Awards	\$ Awarded	Balance	% Alloc of Total Fund	% Awarded of all Awards	% Awarded of Prog Alloc
FRACAA	\$197,000	\$10,000	18	\$159,951	\$37,049	41.47	35.66	81.19
SFSA	\$50,000	\$2,000	24	\$46,618	\$3,382	10.53	10.39	93.24
FRTF	\$210,000	\$800	287	\$220,559	(\$10,559)	44.21	49.17	105.03
PPP&E	\$18,000	\$500	54	\$21,441	(\$3,441)	3.79	4.78	119.12
Total	\$475,000		383	\$448,569	\$26,431	100.00	100.00	94.44

2013-14 awards as of Aug 8, 2014 - close out not complete