

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of October 9, 2014

Members present: Osama Abudayyeh, Michele Anderson (new member), Steve Bertman, Lori Brown, Paul Ciccantell, Martha Councell-Vargas, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Michael Lindquist, Muhammad Razi, Paul Solomon (for Cat Crotchett), Jessaca Spybrook, Susan Stapleton, Patti VanWalbeck, Andre Venter, Udaya Wagle. **Absent without substitution:** Dan Litynski, David Rudge
Also present: Kelli Bond, Office of the Vice President for Research; Melanie Greer, Research and Sponsored Programs; Keith Hearit, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Council Chair Paul Ciccantell called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

Procedural Items

Acceptance of the Agenda

A motion was made by Bertman, seconded by Wagle, to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of September 11, 2014

A motion was made by Bertman, seconded by Spybrook, to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2014 meeting. Motion carried.

New Business

Discussion of 2014-15 Council Charges

Council Chair - **Paul Ciccantell**

- Council charges - consider criteria for internal funding mechanisms
- criteria doesn't fit
 - a. allocation of funds
 - b. criteria of internal funding
- Support for Faculty Scholar Award (SFSA) - dilemma in Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund (FRACASF) process, possibly presenting policy changes - what to do?

Bertman- modify language, tried scoring group. Rubric more useful and relevant. Doesn't represent change in policy, we can change rubric. SFSA & Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA) - one committee to look over both, one group directing the course of action. Crafting new Memorandum of Action, needs to go to full Senate

Abudayyeh - yes - council MOA needs to go back to full Senate to make policy changes.

- Changes in rubric- vote here or vote in Senate

Bertman - to avoid future confusion, look at actual amounts for allocation.

A motion was made by Bertman, supported by Venter, to accept recommendation by the Office of the Vice President for Research for exact allocation amounts for the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund. Motion passed unanimously.

Charges #1 & #7 - modifying charges

Anderson - what's the problem?

Ciccantell - disenfranchisement in certain areas, does not adequately include all areas

Solomon - propose to form committee to look at all aspects of SFSA and FRACAA - common problems seems to be verbiage

Bertman - perceived inequities, need more communication

Motion - more specific about language of rubric

Stapleton - history of internal funding, years of non-welcoming feeling

Part of the problem is education and understanding the rubric

Abudayyeh - Are the workshops effective?

Bertman - At Research and Dessert there were 5 to ½ dozen who attended the workshops, if someone has serious issues with their project or funding there are resources available to help

Wagle - should we make workshops mandatory?

Solomon - No

Solomon - motion to survey Charges #4, #5, & #7
2nd by Osama Abudayyeh

(No motion to pass was indicated; further discussion and friendly amendments offered)

Bertman - #4 and #5 - make procedures more transparent

A motion was made by Bertman, seconded by Ghantasala, to form a subcommittee to review criteria and bring information to the January or February 2015 meeting. (No motion to pass was indicated; further discussion and friendly amendments offered)

Spybrook - define list, grants to individual that doesn't seek from outside funding sources

Ciccantell - We can define as we see fit

Education Workshops? Do something else? Issues linked between SFSA and FRACASF

Councell-Vargas - who's monitoring number of proposals?

Ciccantell- Paula Kohler/OVPR does this

Bertman - #4 - what is the quality of external proposals?

Is FRACASF increasing external funding, is FRACAA working?

Disenfranchisement is separate.

Review rubric language of judging - what constitutes external funding

Bertman - is happy to work on language of review criteria

Abudayyeh - suggested Paula Kohler to review external funding language

Charge #2 - someone is coming to talk about Data TAC

Ciccantell - decide what you want to do

Councell-Vargas - call the question

The motion was amended to form two committees to present findings at the February 2015 meeting:

1- Rubric procedures

Committee Members:

Paul Solomon

Steve Bertman

(SB-will also find a qualitative person
to be on committee)

Muralidhar Ghantasala

2- External Funding Committee (there is unhappiness from creative
arts and humanities)

Committee Members:

David Rudge

Jessaca Spybrook

OVRP: Paula Kohler

Andre Venter

Volunteers to chair committees -

1) Bertman - Rubric procedures

2) Rudge - External Funding Committee

RPC Chair Ciccantell to confirm that Rudge and Kohler were willing to
serve on committee 2, since neither were present. Both subsequently
agreed to serve.

Motion passed.

Issues raised and discussed regarding #6 - Research and Creative Activities Day

Abudayyeh - continue or expand Poster Day?

Brown - people who worked the event were stressed. Issues raised last year, the
only people attending the event were graduate students and those
working the event. No deans or chairs - need a clearer idea of what is
the purpose before inviting businesses. It's difficult recruiting judges.
The new format was disappointing to the Creative Arts participants, they
did not like having to answer questions. If continue with this format; may
not participate.

Councell-Vargas - does not know the history of Poster Day

Ghantasala - likes seeing all of the different people from other colleges - gives
him a perspective on what's going on within the University

Stapleton - the Poster Day committee is comprised of: graduate students, RPC,
and Graduate Studies Council

Tabled this discussion until next meeting.

Reports

Council Chair – Paul Ciccantell

Will hold Chair Report for the next meeting.

Vice President for Research – Daniel Litynski

No report.

Dean of the Graduate College – Susan Stapleton

This morning discussed at the semester meeting of graduate directors:

- 1) Interdisciplinary doctorate - reviewed 30 different universities that have
these degree programs (mostly peer and MAC schools) - will be
proposing to offer at WMU
- 2) Change language to allow for transfer - 1 + 1 - masters – with
international partnership - uses up to 16 credit hours if MOA is in place
- 3) Obstacles for regular graduate students for residency - process requires
receipts through the year. They are contributing to discovery for the
University and if they are not in the country or in Michigan, they're not
able to get receipts. Working with Patti Van Walbeck, associate vice
president for business and finance, to allow the graduate director or
advisor to write letter indicating student is off doing research or scholarly
work.
- 4) Working on a Research-Toolbox for graduate students with John Risley
from OVRP

Continued/Old Business

Continued/Old Business and Charge # 6 to be discussed at next meeting.

Adjournment

Bertman made the motion to adjourn, with support by Councell-Vargas. Motion
passed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Kelli Bond, Acting Secretary