

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of December 4, 2014

Members present: Osama Abudayyeh, Michele Anderson, Paul Ciccantell, Martha Councell-Vargas, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Michael Lindquist, Dan Litynski, Muhammad Razi, David Rudge, Paul Solomon (for Cat Crotchett), Jessaca Spybrook, Susan Stapleton, Patti Van Walbeck, Andre Venter, Udaya Wagle.

Members absent without substitution: Steve Bertman, Lori Brown. **Also present:** Kelli Bond, Office of the Vice President for Research; Miranda Howard, Libraries; Sue Stoyer, Paula Kohler, Associate Vice President for Research; David Reinhold, Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies; Keith Hearit, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Council Chair Paul Ciccantell called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

Procedural Items

Acceptance of the Agenda

A motion was made by Van Walbeck, seconded by Lindquist, to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of November 13, 2014

A motion was made by Abudayyeh, and supported, to **summarize** the minutes of the November 13, 2014 meeting and bring back to the January 15, 2015 meeting for approval. Motion carried.

New Business

*Update on University Policy on Data Collection through Surveys –
David Reinhold, Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies*

Reinhold discussed the disadvantages and advantages of data collections through surveys. Reinhold handed out a draft copy of the University Policy on Data Collection through Surveys sheet.

- No way to organize strategic surveys
- Low response
- Conflict with other surveys
- Survey fatigue
- Use data to form future surveys, no way to coordinate data between entire campus
- How to construct survey to make better surveys
- Concern with duplication of surveys
- Better coordination of timing when surveys are distributed

Kohler is concerned with too many surveys to the same people, discussed how the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board looks at finite information – what's research and what's not research. Concerned that surveys may create barriers to researchers who are going through appropriate protocols.

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE) that are sent out to students and faculty have a good response rate.

- 20% response rate - which is similar to other universities
- Sent to 1000 to 2000 respondents; includes 560 institutions

Continued/Old Business

Two subcommittees to examine Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA) (Bertman chair) and Support for Faculty Scholar Award (SFSA) (Rudge chair) for February meeting: membership update

FRACAA committee met last week, looking at rubric; meeting next week to discuss what constitutes external funding.

*Discussion of 2014-15 Council Charge #6
on Research and Creative Activities Day*

Ciccantell wants to look at revision criteria to make sure there is expertise in humanities, so that everyone is treated fairly. Kohler handed out a task assignment sheet showing responsibilities of individuals.

- Arts & Sciences - prints posters for graduate students
- Graduate Student Association - gives money for awards
- Office of Vice President for Research - Budget Analyst processes awards
- OVPR - Kelli Bond arranges location, lunch, display easels
- RPC recruits judges
- OVPR will see to printing after receive information from R&D committee
- Brooks Applegate may help with scoring, if asked
- Make sure to avoid conflicts with school breaks
- Marketing needs improvement
- Everyone at this table needs to get students and judges
- Committee Members: Mark Wheeler, Sherine Obare, Lori Brown, Mike Linquist, Martha Councell-Vargas as a consultant
- Committee to meet Tuesday, December 9, at 12:00 p.m. in the Bernhard Center

Ciccantell asked everyone to study information from Kohler and to be ready to discuss at the January RPC meeting.

Possible date for Research and Creative Activities Day is March 27, 2015, with a backup date of March 20, 2015.

Kohler reported that there is another workshop in January for office coordinators and chairs on external funding.

Reports

Council Chair – Paul Ciccantell

Reported that his notes were already covered during previous discussions.

Vice President for Research – Daniel Litynski

- Sent out link to Faculty Survey on December 3, 2014, the goal was to send out the link over break to have finished by January. Encourage faculty to take the survey.
- Discovery Experts works, helps with funding opportunities, can adjust profile. Encourage faculty to go in and check on funding opportunities

Ciccantell reported that Sci Val wouldn't allow them to do any searches for new opportunities. Litynski asked that they inform OVPR of glitches or bugs.

Dean of the Graduate College – Susan Stapleton

No report given.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ghantasala, seconded by Spybrook, to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Kelli Bond
Acting Secretary