

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 12 February 2015

Members present: Osama Abudayyeh, Michele Anderson, Steve Bertman, Cat Crotchett, Paul Ciccantell, Martha Councell-Vargas, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Michael Lindquist, Dan Litynski, Muhammad Razi, David Rudge, Brian Horvitz (for Jessica Spybrook), Susan Stapleton, Susan Steuer, Patti Van Walbeck, Andre Venter, Udaya Wagle. **Member absent:** Lori Brown. **Also present:** Paula Kohler, Associate Vice President for Research

Council Chair Paul Ciccantell called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m.

Procedural Items

Acceptance of the Agenda

A motion was made by Rudge, seconded by Ghantasala, to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of 15 January 2015

A motion was made by Rudge, seconded by Venter, to approve the minutes of the 15 January meeting. Motion carried.

New Business

RPC Volunteer to Serve on Emerging Scholars Selection Committee

Heather Petkovic, Geosciences and Mallinson Institute
Patricia Villalobos Echeverria, Frostic School of Art
Ed Roth, Music Therapy
Kuanchin Chen, Business Information Systems

A motion was made by Abudayyeh and seconded by Rudge to close floor to nominations and that this list be forwarded to the selection committee. Motion carried.

Continued/Old Business

*Report from Committee on Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award
Review Rubric – Steve Bertman*

The FRACAA award has particular questions which are asked, based upon three discipline-based review groups. The committee has been pursuing consolidating the three sets of questions into one set with more inclusive language to simplify the process. Bertman described the changes to guidelines and explained the

rationale of the committee in the changes made to the language. The committee discussed additional language changes. Discussion included questions of applicability of the term “external funding” as currently described by the Office of the Vice President for Research to all disciplines. The policy is also in the process of being redefined, so the language may need further development when the revised policy is complete. Suggestions were made that a similar document could be developed for the Support for Faculty Scholar Award to improve understanding of the criteria by evaluators. Some discussion of the level of detail required for the FRACAA and SFSA ensued. The Committee on Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award were commended by RPC for its efforts.

Bertman moved that we make a friendly amendment that we change ii.c. to read “the proposal adequately describes the likelihood that the applicant will secure external funding as described in section X of these guidelines” in the future. Rudge seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rudge moved that RPC form a committee to review the SFSA guidelines in view of these revised guidelines; Ghantasala seconded. Motion carried.

Rudge, Venter and Ghantasala agreed to serve on a committee to revise SFSA guidelines by the next meeting.

Reports

Council Chair – Paul Ciccantell

Ciccantell has been asked to serve on the Centers and Institutes Committee as a part of the academic review process. Abudayyeh noted that the intention is for this to become a standing committee which will expect annual reports to provide oversight to centers and institutes.

Vice President for Research – Daniel Litynski

Faculty survey continues to be available for submissions. The cutoff is 21 February. Litynski encouraged RPC members to remind their colleagues to complete the survey.

Many awards were given during the September-December time frame. The provost wants to recognize this success and honored those who had brought in at least \$1 million in external funding over the past five years and new awardees this fall. Further recognition events are planned.

Kohler distributed materials describing new workshops by OVPR staff to help with grant development and reporting. The last round of workshops was well-attended.

Dean of the Graduate College – Susan Stapleton

The first edition of *Hilltop Review* from the new editor was just released in ScholarWorks, with addition of creative works (art and writing). Students should be encouraged to submit material. Materials are accessed by outside researchers, so students will get recognition from their work published.

New resource “Versatile Ph.D.” which helps students develop alternative careers to academia and market themselves. This resource has meet ups and one is going to be held in Lansing soon. Stapleton will send further information.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Bertman, seconded by Ghantalsala, to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

Susan Steuer
Secretary