

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE**

**RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 5 March 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, Joe Kretoivics (for Jessaca Spybrook), Susan Stapleton, Susan Steuer, Patti Van Walbeck, Andre Venter, Udaya Wagle, Geoff Whitehurst (for Lori Brown).

Council Chair Paul Ciccantell called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

Procedural Items

Acceptance of the Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes of 12 February 2015

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

New Business

*Committee to Consider Using Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award
Rubric for the Support for Faculty Scholar Award Rubric – David Rudge,
Muralidhar Ghantasala, Andre Venter*

Rudge reported that the committee feels there could be improved consistency across many of the documents for the FRACAA and SFSA and the committee plans to propose some changes which will provide greater clarity for applicants and reviewers across disciplines. The RPC members recommended that any changes be suggested in view of the overall policies for the SFSA. If changes are only procedural, they should not need to go before the entire Senate.

Continued/Old Business

Planning for Research and Creative Activities Day – Susan Steuer

Litynski distributed the finalized fact sheets which will be made public for faculty nominators and student participants on a webpage. Steuer noted that few changes were made to the announcements. Discussion included costs for students and limits on the number of nominations per department. The limits were a surprise and an issue of concern for the council. Stapleton provided a history of the event. Limits may have been relaxed in recent years, but there were limits

initially to two per degree level per department to help minimize the cost and due to other logistical issues. The council is very concerned with limiting participation; the RPC would like to see the opportunity to showcase as many graduate students as possible, but there may be limitations of space. The question was raised whether the cost was the issue or difficulties in recruiting a sufficient number of judges. The RPC would like the subcommittee to reconvene and discuss the issue of limitations again. The reactions of the departments to a reinforcement of the limits are a concern. If the volume of participants has not been a problem in the past, are limits per department necessary? The RPC advocates fairness, but does not see that the limits are the best way to create a fair situation. Suggestions include requiring faculty sponsors to serve as judges to make sure we have enough judges. Lindquist noted that an evaluation and funding were being discussed by the Graduate Studies Council.

A motion was made by Abudayyeh to charge Paul Ciccantell to meet with GSC Chair Mark Wheeler to advocate for removing limits, as well as ensuring that the same instructions be given to all departments. Rudge seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Committee on FRACAA External Funding Requirement – David Rudge

Rudge reported that the subcommittee was considering the question of whether the kinds of funding which individuals can get in the humanities and the arts qualify them for fulfilling the requirements of a FRACAA award. The committee resolved that the language should stipulate that the “revenue source must be outside the university” rather than “external funding” because of the limitations of this term as it is defined by the Office of the Vice President for Research. Proof of application for such funding would be provided with the final reporting by the FRACAA recipient. The goal is to recognize the value of funding sources which do not involve submissions through OVPR. The committee would like to forward this to appropriate groups and individuals across campus to see if this is a potential way forward, and armed with that feedback, revisit this before sending it on to the Senate. Actions required from the Senate were discussed. Litynski believes it would require a new Memorandum Of Action from the Senate. OVPR is concerned, as the administrative body overseeing the FRACAA, that it does not have a way of tracking these kinds of awards. Some concern was expressed about how broad this definition could be, particularly in view of consulting. The goal of the funds may need to be re-evaluated. There is concern about privileging some disciplines over another. Rudge plans to send this to the Center for the Humanities and associate deans for research in each college.

Rudge moved that RPC allow the subcommittee to disseminate the minutes as amended (“Revenue from outside the university for Research or Creative Activities” rather than revenue from outside sources) across campus before RPC moves ahead on this proposal. Razi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Reports

Council Chair – Paul Ciccantell

Ciccantell will approach Mark Wheeler and go with Rudge to the Humanities Center to deal with the issues described above.

Vice President for Research – Daniel Litynski

Litynski discussed export control restrictions for visitors and projects across the University. He recommends caution in issuing invitations or collaboration with individuals from certain regions or organizations to avoid problems with visas or transport. OVPR works regularly with the FBI in trying to protect the public from potential dangers (physical, financial and intellectual property). There may be some restrictions on what certain individuals from watch lists countries can tour. Contact Julia Mays in OVPR or the Haenicke Institute for Global Education administrators with questions. This does not necessarily mean controversial speakers in general, but rather those on the export control list. This can also be an issue for students from certain countries. Faculty should contact OVPR regarding any potential issues. Litynski thought that perhaps OVPR should publish a list of watched countries.

He reviewed the system for discovery experts and noted that the new capabilities will be available in June.

The survey on external funding is closed and a report should be issued by the next meeting.

Dean of the Graduate College – Susan Stapleton

Stapleton reported on the Research and Travel Awards for graduate students – 22 applications resulted in 8 awards. A group will be sent to the National Science Foundation's Alliance for Graduate Education in the Professoriate to present. This includes a mentorship program, particularly for students who represent diverse populations. Teaching and Research Awards are being reviewed and that ceremony is upcoming as well. Lindquist asked about representation of the humanities in these awards.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Abuddayeh, seconded by Rudge, to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Susan Steuer
Secretary