

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE**

**RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 11 June 2015**

Members present: Osama Abudayyeh, Steve Bertman, Lori Brown, Sharon Carlson, Paul Ciccantell, Robin Criter, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Paula Kohler (for Daniel Litynski), David Rudge, Susan Stapleton, Susan Steuer, Andre Venter.

Council Chair Paul Ciccantell called the meeting to order at 2:36 p.m.

Procedural Items

Acceptance of the Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes of 7 May 2015

A motion was made by Ghantasala, seconded by Criter, to approve the minutes of the 7 May meeting. Motion carried.

New Business

Welcome New Members: Robin Criter, Sharon Carlson, Chris Coryn

Chair Ciccantell introduced and welcomed three new council members:

- Sharon Carlson, University Libraries,
- Chris Coryn, Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation, and
- Robin Criter, Speech Pathology and Audiology.

Election of Officers for 2015-16

The following RPC officers were elected for the next year:

- Chair – Paul Ciccantell
- Vice Chair – Dave Rudge
- Secretary – Susan Steuer.

Discussion of Charges for 2015-16

Rudge would like to formulate a formal policy for providing credit to those with formal dual appointments or who serve as co-PIs for grant applications which are based in other units or departments. He cited a history of problems for units such as the Mallinson Institute for Science Education. Ciccantell agreed and suggested we pull in some faculty who have been in this position to contribute.

Abudayyeh recommended that a study of the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award be conducted with any eye to revising that program. Bertman agreed, and said that we may need to see if we have such a charge already.

Kohler suggests that a number of policies need to be retouched, such as export control. She suggested a five-year review cycle for research policies to make sure they conform to various legal and procedural changes within and outside of the University. Bertman recommended a catalog of policies to begin this process. Rudge would like the units which implement the policy to provide a report on the issues which the policy addresses and how well it serves their needs. Bertman argues that this is not a charge, but rather a procedure. Kohler noted that all of the policies for this council would be housed in the Office of the Vice President for Research. Abudayyeh suggested that we need to develop a procedure for review and then a schedule of policies to cover. Kohler said that Research and Misconduct definitely needs review and others may need some updating.

Rudge noted the removal of the Research and Creative Activities Poster Day from RPC charges. Problems with this should go to the new standing committee and we will have no part in ongoing developments.

Rudge reminded council members that Jody Brylinsky had spoken to the council about limitations on surveys to students and other student groups, and this remains an unresolved issue. At the previous meeting Litynski said he would provide a follow-up report in the future. Kohler gave a brief update, but there does not seem to be a real resolution of whether a policy or set of procedures will be enacted. Rudge notes that this remains a concern for the timely completion of graduate research. The status of this remains unclear and an update is desired.

Kohler notes that there may be things which filter down from changes in Federal rules and procedures.

2014-2015 charges include:

- Issues deemed necessary
- Data Collection through surveys
- Research Ethics
- Monitor proposals for FRACAA
- Consistent language for FRACAA
- Research and Creative Activities Day procedures (removed from our role)
- Support for Faculty Scholar Award guidelines and procedures.

Bertman moves a rollover of last year's charges which remain outstanding. Ciccantell will prepare a report for the fall meeting for approval and discussion.

Continued/Old Business

Report from 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 provided copies of the new unified evaluation guidelines prepared by the subcommittee for both the SFSA and FRACAA. A discussion of language ensued and concerns were expressed about whether this material needs to go through the Faculty Senate Executive Board. Bertman notes we do not evaluate final reports, as listed in the guidelines, and that will be struck from the policy. Procedures can be changed, but policy will need to go through the executive board. Discussion of the category "Overall summary" on the revised form was discussed, which asks each judge to set aside numerical scores. The subcommittee was under the impression that the budget had too much weight in the decision, and this was added to resolve this issue. Rudge will revise this language. Rudge and Venter discussed this as a field which allows the committee to distinguish between two proposals with the same numerical score. Concern about matching the criteria to the form was also raised. This will be rectified. Steve Bertman has agreed to help serve on this subcommittee and this was tabled until fall for use with the second SFSA round for academic year 2015-2016.

Report from Committee on FRACAA External Funding Requirement – David Rudge

An ongoing concern about the definition of external funding for this grant has resulted in a recommended change to the language for this grant from "external funding" to "outside funding." Committee members indicated that there may be a disagreement between administrators and faculty on whether the FRACAA is fair to all disciplines and what external funding means. This would be a policy change so it would need to be a Memorandum Of Action to go to the Executive Board and then to the administration. A motion was made by Rudge to send this forward to the Executive Board, seconded by Venter. A motion was made by Stapleton and seconded by Kohler to table this motion until the fall to determine whether this should be revised or other measures should be taken to deal with the perception that this program offers preferential treatment for scientists. The second motion carried.

Reports

Council Chair – Paul Ciccantell

Ciccantell will try not to have a meeting next June.

Vice President for Research – Daniel Litynski

Kohler reported for Litynski. New features to Discovery Experts have been rolled out. There are balances in various funds of the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund which we would like to carry forward to next year. Kohler will send a revised draft of the Research Misconduct Policy to the 2015-16 members of RPC for discussion in the fall. The Provost's Office has asked OVPR to combine some Distinguished Scholar and other events into research and dessert or other research events to avoid the misunderstanding which occurred with poster day this year.

Dean of the Graduate College – Susan Stapleton

Stapleton reported that travel and research graduate student grants have been awarded, close to \$100,000 total. The University Dames awards went to four graduate students. The Graduate College is working on research ethics programs for all new graduate students, including a unit on plagiarism.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Stapleton, seconded by Abudayyeh, to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

The next meeting will be held in September. Once the 2015-16 meeting dates have been established over the summer, members will be notified by email.

Susan Steuer
Secretary