

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE**

**RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL
Minutes of March 16, 2017**

Members Present: Osama Abudayyeh, Steve Bertman, Paul Ciccantell, Chris Coryn, Martha Councell-Vargas, Robin Criter, David Rudge (for Katherine Joslin), Dan Litynski, Paul Solomon, Jessaca Spybrook, Muralidhar Ghantasala, Sue Stapleton, Susan Steuer, Patti VanWalbeck, Andre Venter

Member Absent: Onur Aruguslan

Guest: Sherine Obare, Associate Vice President for Research

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m. by Council Chair Paul Ciccantell. A quorum was present.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

Bertman made a motion to accept the agenda and Coryn seconded the motion. The agenda was accepted as proposed.

Approval of the Minutes

Coryn made a motion to approve the minutes of February 9, 2017. Ghantasala seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Announcements/Chair's Remarks

The Faculty Research And Creative Activities Award committee will have a report for the next meeting

The Support for Faculty Scholar Award revision committee will have a report for the next meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

None.

DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS

*RPC member to serve on the Committee on University Strategic Planning
(CUSP)*

Lori Brown and Willem Homan were selected by the council to serve on this committee.

RPC member to serve on the Emerging Scholar Award Committee

The committee recommends Brooks Applegate, Sally Hadden, Todd Barkman and Lin Foulk be put forward for this committee.

Reports

Chair's Report – Paul Ciccantell

No report.

Vice President for Research – Daniel Litynski

Litynski distributed a number of reports about current external funding awards. He noted we are running ahead for the year for submissions, but behind on actual awards. Litynski explained some things about the way the numbers in the spreadsheets are determined. Reports included five-year summaries of the number of submissions, awards and expenditures; value of submissions, awards, and expenditures; Value of awards by college/department; FY 2016-17 Internal award expenditures; and 3-year summary of internal award expenditures. He noted that our grants seem to be competitive, but don't necessarily garner the funds. Some discussion ensued about funding in the future. Litynski noted that he recommended an increase of \$50,000 for these funds. Rudge noted that biology faculty have suggested that the FRACAA fund allocations should be higher, and should extend for two years. Ciccantell noted that a one-year extension has routinely been allowed for reasonable justification. Bertman suggested that we await the report on the effectiveness of the program before we make final recommendations. Rudge noted that comparisons against peer institutions should include an evaluation of the internal resources available to support research as well as success in external funding or other measures of productivity. Spybrook noted that the data for this is quite difficult to locate and quantify in the systems which are available. Discussion about the systems which are used to collect this data ensued.

Dean of the Graduate College – Susan Stapleton

Stapleton reminded the council about the April 13 Research and Creative Activities Celebration Day which celebrates graduate student research – 9 to 11 a.m. poster viewing; lunch; 43 posters have been submitted. Rudge noted that each department has a limit on students to send forward for this event, and feels this is a problem.

April 27 is the Honors Convocation for teaching awards for graduate students.

A nominee will attend the Midwest Regional Three Minute Thesis competition, George Lubris.

There are funds for graduate student travel for giving papers or doing research which have been awarded.

OTHER

Andre Venter distributed a survey which has been developed by the International Education Council to determine obstacles to international scholarly and creative activities for faculty members. RPC members noted several additional groups should be surveyed. Members are invited to submit comments to Venter or other committee members. Ciccantell asked that a revised survey be sent to him so that Ciccantell can email this to the committee for feedback. Venter also noted that since he will be on sabbatical next year, a new representative will need to be appointed.

ADJOURNMENT

Rudge made the motion to adjourn and Spybook seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Susan Steuer, Secretary