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**Research and Creative Scholarship Council  
Minutes of 13 November 2025****Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Research and Creative Scholarship Council was called to order at 2:32 p.m. on 13 November 2025 in Walwood Hall Connable Room 112 E, by Lofton Durham, chair.

**Members in Attendance:** Onur Arugaslan, Upul Attanayake, Carrie Barrett, Benjamin Brady, Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Anthony DeFulio, Lofton Durham, Angela Groves, Luis Jacobo Mejia (substitute for Rohullah Wahidi) Gellert Mezei, John Miller, Selim Ozyurek, Remzi Seker, Jesse Smith, Bilinda Straight, Rohullah Wahidi, Xiaoman Wang (substitute for Beixi Li)

**Members Absent:** Patrick Bennett, Amy Bocko, Christopher Cheatham, German Zarate-Sandez

**Ex Officio in Attendance:** Anthony DeFulio, Andre Venter

**Guests:** Christine Stamper, Office of Research and Innovation

**Quorum**

A quorum was present with 17 members in attendance, of the 12 needed to establish quorum.

**Agenda**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Ozyurek, seconded by Barrett, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Miller, seconded by Ozyurek, to approve the 9 October 2025 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**Reports of Officers**

Chair Durham did not provide a report.

Ex Officio DeFulio did not provide a report.

**Reports of University Representatives**

Seker reported that the Office of Research and Innovation (ORI) is working closely with Office of Information Technology (OIT) to advance important efforts to align WMU with emerging federal requirements, including NIST SP 800-171 for protecting Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI). These improvements prepare WMU for future Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) requirements and promote consistency across colleges. ORI is working closely with the Office of General Counsel, including the following updated policies:

- Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment
- Eligibility to Serve as Principal Investigator
- Other financial support. ORI is implementing annual COI reporting, and there will be more information in the coming months.

Seker commented that OIT are working on security standards and streamlining how projects are handled. OIT would like to ensure that WMU is in full compliance and working on new policies to that effect. In addition to working on concerns regarding risk exposure and financial issues, ORI is working on issues related to Principal Investigator continuity plans given the requirements at the Federal level. Survey questionnaires will be sent out soon to faculty and relevant parties regarding continuity and related issues. This will facilitate compliance and help protect WMU and its faculty.

Attanayake joined the meeting at 2:37 p.m.

Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund (FRCASF) reported for FY 2026, a total budget of \$440,000. So far, there have been 87 Faculty Research Travel Fund (FRTF) awards, and 12 Publication of Papers and Exhibition (PPP&E) awards granted. Support for Faculty Scholars Award (SFSA) and Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA) have not yet been awarded. The remaining award balance is \$334,537.89.

There was discussion about the systems used for FRTF awards, including issues of the timing of travel authorizations, FRTF applications, and when/how faculty are completing these forms. Seker noted that the President Kavalhuna increased FRTF funds. Seker reiterated that once the funds are exhausted, no further travel can be supported, and cannot overspend this funding source. It was noted that faculty members must submit travel authorizations in advance of travel and that these funds are only available to bargaining unit members. There was additional commentary about the systems used for travel authorization and FRTF applications, and how these might be integrated and made more efficient for faculty and ORI.

Byrd-Jacobs noted that graduate student research and travel grants for fall are complete. There were 51 graduate student travel grant applications submitted and 35 were approved. There were 21 graduate student research grants submitted and 14 were approved. Byrd-Jacobs noted these are all competitive grants that involved 12 faculty reviewers. The combined total for research and travel grants is \$47,703. Graduate College expects to spend around \$100,000 a year on graduate student grants.

Byrd-Jacobs commented that the recent dissertation writing workshop was a success. There were 27 doctoral students in attendance. Susan Stapleton, advisory board member, Study of Ethics in Society, was a dissertation writing coach for the event. Student feedback was very positive.

Byrd-Jacobs hosted a “Graduate Gathering” with chairs and directors to work on Individual Development Plans (IDPs). IDPs are designed to help guide graduate students through various facets of graduate school. For faculty working with graduate students on federal grants like National Science Foundation (NSF) or National Institutes of Health (NIH), IDPs have to be submitted. Faculty have to be aware of the process. Information is on the Graduate College website and faculty are encouraged to visit. The website includes links to information about national IDPs in addition to the IDP WMU has adopted. Byrd-Jacobs suggested that IDPs could become part of the graduate student annual review process.

There was a question about whether IDPs are for master’s or doctoral-level students. Byrd-Jacobs replied that IDPs are for both.

Byrd-Jacobs announced that the next “Three Minute Thesis” event will be held on 18 November, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Waldo Library in the Graduate Commons room. Byrd-Jacobs invited faculty to attend the event to watch 10 graduate students research presentations. Judging is by a panel, which include President Kavalhuna.

Seker left the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

Due to absence, Academic Affairs did not provide a report.

### **Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees**

Venter reported that he will be hosting a virtual Q&A session at 10 a.m. 10 November on SFSA and FRACAA awards and encouraged faculty to volunteer to be reviewers.

Durham reported the following:

- Subcommittee One gathered relevant information to their charge and working on policies related to FRACAA and SFSA among other issues. A proposal may be ready by RCSC December meeting.
- On behalf of Bocko (absent), who is leading Subcommittee Two. The subcommittee is working on issues related to AI and the subcommittee will likely meet the second week of December, and in the meantime, the group will be working asynchronously in Teams. Bocko solicited feedback from the members on the topics and concerns to explore. Bocko will add that information to the Teams

folder. It is anticipated that the future meeting will consist of what the subcommittee has done so far before narrowing their scope and landing on a deliverable.

Miller commented that other groups on campus are working on AI-related issues such as students' use of AI as it relates to academic integrity. DeFulio commented that the Faculty Senate already produced an in-depth AI report and that this should be included in this subcommittee's discussions. It was agreed that the report will be uploaded to Teams. Byrd-Jacobs suggested that there should be a university-wide AI policy, not just individual policies at the college level. She noted that many graduate colleges have their own AI policies. There was discussion about the goals and coordination efforts across groups on campus working on AI issues.

Ex Officio DeFulio reported that Subcommittee Three met and set both a timeline and workflow. The subcommittee have some of the basic principles laid out and are now working out details. The first deadline is in January 2026 for a Memorandum of Action (MOA). Ex Officio DeFulio suggested that Subcommittee Three should be on target to meet that deadline.

**New Business**

None.

**Unfinished Business**

None.

**Announcements**

None.

**Adjournment**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Straight, seconded by Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Research and Creative Scholarship Council will meet next on 4 December at 2:30 p.m. in-person in Walwood Hall Connable Room 112 E.

**Approval**

Submitted by Jesse M. Smith, Secretary

Minutes were approved on 4 December 2025.