
Research Policies Council

Minutes of 13 October 2022

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Research Policies was called to order at 2:30 p.m. on 13 October 2022 via Webex video conferencing by Andre Venter, chair.

Members in Attendance: Lori Brown, Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Martha Councell-Vargas, Whitney DeCamp (designee for Acting Provost), Wanda Hadley, Daria Orlowska, Remzi Seker, Andre Venter, Robert Wall Emerson, Kevin Wanner

Members Absent: Onur Arugaslan, Kristina Lemmer, Paul Solomon

Ex Officio(s) in Attendance: Anthony DeFulio, Mark Hurwitz

Guest(s): None

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Acceptance of Agenda

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

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Councell-Vargas, seconded by Hadley, to approve the 8 September 2022 minutes as presented. With one abstention, the motion carried.

Reports of Officers

Chair Venter reported that RPC has been invited to present at an upcoming Faculty Senate meeting. A discussion was held on topics to be included in the report and how to communicate new limits in funds like PPP&E and FRTF to administrative staff.

Ex Officio DeFulio noted that RPC has one vacant seat to fill. This representative need not come from any particular college.

Reports of University Representatives

Vice President for Research and Innovation Seker reported that the budget report will be distributed soon. A discussion was held regarding what policy should be in place in situations when a Principal Investigator does not submit a required report to a federal funding agency. Further discussion will be held at the next RPC meeting. Ex Officio DeFulio noted that a policy does exist for this situation but may need to be developed.

Graduate College Dean Byrd-Jacobs noted that graduate student enrollment this fall was lower than last year. WMU is down to 3,348 graduate students. Graduate student research and travel grant applications are due on 27 October 2022.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

Ex Officio Hurwitz noted that Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA) applications will be open in early December with a workshop for applicants.

Unfinished Business

Ex Officio DeFulio led a discussion on Charge #2: *Interdisciplinary Research and Cluster Hires*, and what portion of the charge the council will focus on as it moves forward. Focusing on strengthening

interdisciplinary research collaboration was deemed more important than the aspect of cluster hires. The possibility of councils meeting in person was suggested as a way of increasing interdisciplinarity.

New Business

Vice President for Research and Innovation Seker introduced out-of-state student research assistants paying in-state tuition rates, since the higher expense of paying out-of-state tuition rates can limit the ability of some grants to hire certain students. There was support for the idea, and a discussion was held on how such a policy might be implemented and how a recommendation on the matter from the council might be worded.

Vice President for Research and Innovation Seker noted several trends that are having an impact on decreasing undergraduate enrollment. It may be that increasing undergraduate involvement in research might have the effect of strengthening undergraduate enrollment.

Chair Venter noted Charge #1: *Update PPP&E and FRTF Policies and Procedures*, which include outdated language. Council-Vargas and Ex Officio Hurwitz will draft a revision for the PPP&E language to update and align it with the FRACAA and FAFSA language.

Chair Venter led a discussion on Charge #5: *University Libraries Research Tools* regarding resources and how decisions on the services offered are made. It was recommended that the libraries undertake a survey of faculty to determine what research resources are needed most. It was noted that this effort is also covered under Charge #2. Chair Venter and Ex Officio DeFulio will draft language for a recommendation.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Hurwitz, seconded by Council-Vargas, to adjourn the meeting at 4:18 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Research Policies Council will meet next on 10 November 2022 at 2:30 p.m. virtually via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Robert Wall Emerson, Secretary

Minutes approved on 10 November 2022.