
RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL

Minutes of 12 January 2023

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Research Policies Council was called to order at 2:31 p.m. on 12 January 2023, via Webex video conferencing by Andre Venter, chair.

Members in Attendance: Onur Arugaslan, Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Lori Brown, Margarita Carrillo, Martha Councell-Vargas, Whitney DeCamp, Noor Fathima, Wanda Hadley, Daria Orlowska, Remzi Seker, Paul Solomon, Andre Venter, Robert Wall Emerson, Kevin Wanner, Qingliu Wu (substitute for Kristina Lemmer)

Ex Officio in Attendance: Anthony DeFulio

Ex Officio Absent: Mark Hurwitz

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Agenda

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

Minutes

The minutes were amended to add Byrd-Jacobs as present.

[MOTION] It was moved by DeCamp, seconded by Hadley, to approve the 1 December 2022 minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Venter noted that RPC is making good progress on the charges. However, Charges #2 and #3 need more attention. Actions to address Charge #2 will be discussed under new business at the next meeting.

Ex Officio DeFulio did not provide a report.

Reports of University Representatives

Seker reported on the funds remaining in the awards budget. Some of the previously awarded travel funds given for Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA) service have not yet been expended, even with extensions granted. Discussion was held regarding these funds and the larger issue of compensation for FRACAA service. A proposal was made to keep the FRACAA compensation at the current level, and that any such awards must be used within the fiscal year following the FRACAA review.

[MOTION] It was moved by DeFulio, seconded by Wall Emerson, to approve the proposal as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Byrd-Jacobs noted that 52 doctoral students graduated in December 2022. WMU had 131 doctoral students graduated in 2021. Research and travel grant applications for graduate students are open with a March deadline. The Graduate Student Poster Day is returning as an in-person event in the spring.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

Chair Venter indicated that submissions are currently coming in for the FRACAA awards.

Unfinished Business

Chair Venter would like to invite Geri Rinna from the University Libraries to discuss research tools regarding Charge #5 at a future RPC meeting. Chair Venter will also invite Julian Vasquez Heilig, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

New Business

Chair Venter indicated that 12 Support for Faculty Scholars Award (SFSA) submissions have been

received. Each RPC member is encouraged to use InfoReady to review at least three submissions by 15 February.

Seker indicated that WMU does not have a robust process for tracking Conflict of Interest and Commitment. A process is now being developed and will be structured through InfoReady.

Seker encouraged participation in the Broncos Innovate Challenge.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by DeCamp, seconded by Seker, to adjourn the meeting at 3:03 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Research Policies Council will meet next on 9 February 2023, at 2:30 p.m. virtually via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Robert Wall Emerson, Secretary

Minutes approved on 9 February 2023.