
RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL

Minutes of 9 February 2023

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Research Policies Council was called to order at 2:30 p.m. on 9 February 2023, via Webex video conferencing by Andre Venter, chair.

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

Members Absent: Paul Solomon

Ex Officio in Attendance: Anthony DeFulio, Mark Hurwitz

Guests: David Johnson, Intellectual Property Manager, Office of Research and Innovation; Julia Mays, Associate Director Research Compliance, Office of Research and Innovation; Christine Stamper, Coordinator, Data Research, Office of Research and Innovation

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Agenda

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

Minutes

An amendment was made to change a line to read: "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 Venter, seconded by DeCamp, to approve the 12 January 2023 as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Venter noted that RPC will invite Geri Rinna, Librarian Representative, after the upcoming library meeting. In the Support for Faculty Scholars Award (SFSA) process, many of the submitted proposals were funded, spending just over \$26,000 of the budgeted \$30,000. The eight funded applications included proposals 2480, 2487, 2455, 2492, 2486, 2449, 2495, and 2494.

Ex Officio DeFulio did not provide a report.

Stamper left the meeting at 2:53 p.m.

McKain joined the meeting at 2:58 p.m.

Reports of University Representative

McKain noted that a full Office of Research and Innovation report will be presented at the next RPC meeting on 9 March 2023. This delay is due to the recent technological issues at WMU. McKain announced that the spring convocation is on 21 April 2023.

Hurwitz attended the meeting at 2:59 p.m.

Johnson joined the meeting at 2:59 p.m.

Byrd-Jacobs joined the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

Byrd-Jacobs noted that 11 students participated in the three-minute thesis competition on 8 February 2023. Research and travel grants are open and due in March. The Graduate College will be present at the upcoming WMU Day at the Capitol. Submissions for student representatives are welcome.

Mays joined the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

Ex Officio Hurwitz noted that the deadline for FRACAA submissions is 10 February 2023. There are 23 submissions thus far.

DeFulio joined the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

Hadley left the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Unfinished Business

Chair Venter noted that he and Ex Officio DeFulio will be attending the upcoming library strategy planning meeting and will report at the next RPC meeting.

New Business

McKain introduced Attorney David Johnson, New Intellectual Property Manager at the Office of Research and Innovation (ORI). Johnson stated his role in developing and filing patents at ORI.

Mays encouraged submission of community members for the WMU Institutional Review Board (IRB). There is a two-step process for adding students to the [Cayuse platform](#). Mays noted that the National Science Foundation requires a “safe and inclusive plan” for off-site compliance. Some of the aspects of the requirements were laid out in the context of how WMU is developing a procedure for researchers to use to comply with the requirements.

Mays left the meeting at 3:34 p.m.

Chair Venter encouraged members to review Charge #2: Recommendations and Memorandum of Action for Enhancing Interdisciplinary Research and Creative Collaborations at the College and Department Levels. There will be a discussion at the next RPC meeting. It was noted that the College of Arts and Sciences has a process to financially support interdisciplinary projects. The idea of FRACAA being modified to contain a process by which it could encourage interdisciplinary projects was discussed, along with possible mechanisms for encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration and some of the obstacles seen in previous efforts.

DeFulio left the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

Announcements

Chair Venter announced that Julian Vasquez Heilig, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, will be a guest at the RPC 11 May 2023 meeting.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Councill-Vargas, seconded by Hurwitz, to adjourn the meeting at 3:57 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Research Policies Council will meet next on 2 March 2023, at 2:30 p.m. virtually via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Robert Wall Emerson, Secretary

Minutes approved on 2 March 2023.