
RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL

Minutes of 2 March 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 2 March 2023, via Webex video conferencing by Andre Venter, chair.

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

Members Absent: Margarita Carrillo, Qingliu Wu (substitute for Kristina Lemmer)

Ex Officio in Attendance: Anthony DeFulio, Mark Hurwitz

Guest: Bonnie Gabriel, Business Manager Associate, Research and Innovation

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Agenda

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

Minutes

An amendment was made to remove details of submission numbers of the Support for Faculty Scholars Award (SFSA).

[MOTION] It was moved by Venter, seconded by DeCamp, to approve the minutes of 9 February 2023 as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Venter noted that Geri Rinna, Libraries Collections Strategist, will attend an RPC meeting in the future.

Ex Officio DeFulio did not provide a report.

Seker joined the meeting at 2:53 p.m.

Reports of University Representative

Gabriel shared the Office of Research and Innovation (ORI) financial tracking data for Support for Faculty Scholars Award (SFSA), Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA), Preparation and Publication of Papers and Exhibition (PPP&E) systems. A discussion on details regarding financial incentives for FRACAA reviewers was held.

[MOTION] It was moved by Hurwitz, seconded by Councell-Vargas, to set the level of Faculty Research Travel Fund (FRTF) incentive for FRACAA reviewers this year at \$1,600 (to be used before the end of the following academic year). The motion carried with one abstention.

Whitney attended the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Gabriel left the meeting at 3:19 p.m.

Byrd-Jacobs noted that the Graduate College participated in the WMU Capitol Day Event. A poster preparation workshop was recently held for graduate students, with ten attendees. Two dissertation formatting workshops were recently held, with 29 attendees. Plans are being made for Research Day

scheduled for 13 April. Submissions for two to four doctoral scholar awards are being gathered and assessed.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

Ex Officio Hurwitz noted that 33 submissions have been received for FRACAA, up from 24 last year. The 33 submissions include six in creative arts, seven qualitative, and 20 quantitative proposals. Reviewers have been assigned.

Unfinished Business

Seker shared the recent Higher Education Research and Development (HEARD) survey results. WMU research expenditures are declining. Seker will share proposal submission trends and the breakout by colleges and departments at the next RPC meeting. Interdisciplinary may be a way to encourage more proposal submissions. A discussion was held regarding adapting the FRACAA process to encourage interdisciplinary submissions.

Hurwitz left the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

Solomon left the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

New Business

Geri Rinna, Libraries Collections Strategist, will move Charge #5: Research Tools Available Through the University Libraries to the next steps.

Council Vargas left the meeting at 3:54 p.m.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by DeFulio, seconded by Arugaslan, to adjourn the meeting at 4:22 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Research Policies Council will meet next on 13 April 2023, at 2:30 p.m. virtually via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Robert Wall Emerson, Secretary

Minutes approved on 13 April 2023.