
RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL

Minutes of 9 September 2021

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Research Policies Council was called to order at 2:37 p.m. on 9 September 2021, in person and via Webex video conferencing by Onur Arugaslan, chair.

Members in Attendance: Onur Arugaslan, Lori Brown, Steven Carr, Chris Coryn, Martha Cuncell-Vargas, Listiani Eran, Wanda Hadley, Akshay Hiremath, David Huffman, Susan Steuer (substitute for Daria Orłowska), Mercedes Tubino-Blanco, Andre Venter, Robert Wall Emerson

Members Absent: Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Paul Solomon

Ex Officio(s) in Attendance: Anthony DeFulio

Ex Officio(s) Absent: Manuel Bautista,

Guest(s): Marilyn Kritzman, Faculty Senate President; Kristina Lemmer, Associate Professor, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Elections

[MOTION] It was moved by Cuncell-Vargas, seconded by Venter, to elect Robert Wall Emerson as secretary. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda

The report of the Graduate College Dean was removed due to her absence.

[MOTION] It was moved by Venter, seconded by Cuncell-Vargas, to accept the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Coryn, seconded by Huffman, to approve the minutes of 20 May, 2021 as provided. The motion carried unanimously.

Presentation of Charges

Faculty Senate President Marilyn Kritzman presented the council with the 2021-22 charges.

Reports of Officers

Chair Arugaslan noted that he submitted the annual council year-end report. Whether the council has a December meeting is yet to be determined.

Ex Officio DeFulio reported on behalf of the Graduate College dean that graduate student research and travel grants are due 27 October 2021.

Reports of University Representatives

Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation Steven Carr indicated there is an upcoming Institutional Review Board discovery acceleration workshop. IRB is expected to be electronic via Cayuse soon.

It was noted that a report from the Graduate Student Association should be added to future agendas.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

Due to Bautista's absence, the Research Screening Committee report was not provided.

Unfinished Business

Interim Vice President Carr indicated that Support for Faculty Scholars Awards will be distributed only once a year due to staffing shortages. The same amount of funding is available for awards but distributed just once a year; the submission deadline is 1 December. Discussion was held regarding revising the amount of Faculty Research and Creative Activities Awards, perhaps introducing a tiered system of varied award amounts. There will be a substantial amount of funding rolled over from last year. Carr will share the exact amounts at the next meeting.

Interim Vice President Carr noted that the comment period on the Conflict of Interest Policy has ended, with no comments submitted. DeFulio suggested that at the next meeting, when the council reviews and votes on the policy in a MOA, a member of the University Policy Committee should be invited to attend.

Interim Vice President Carr stated that the Agency Required Reports Policy will establish deadlines that investigators must follow when a report requires input or review from other WMU departments such as grants and contracts, and that specific deadlines must be abided.

DeFulio explained that MOA-19/09: Revision of Research Misconduct Policy was postponed and was not presented on the floor of the Faculty Senate last year. It was suggested that the word “provisions” be changed to “bargaining unit eligible” in the accountability section, and that there be an addition of a reference to relevant staff handbooks as the place to refer for structuring disciplinary action of non-bargaining unit persons.

[MOTION] It was moved by DeFulio, seconded by Venter, that MOA-19/09 be approved as amended and go to the floor of the next Faculty Senate meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

DeFulio introduced minor changes to the previously approved MOA-19/14: Fixed-Price Agreement Policy to update position and title changes. Discussion was held, specifically due to the Strategic Resource Management system.

[MOTION] It was moved by DeFulio, seconded by Coryn, to approve MOA-19/14 for the Executive Board. The motion carried.

Councill-Vargas left the meeting at 4 p.m.

New Business

Interim Vice President Carr stated that the Agency Required Reports Policy will require that when investigators submit a report, input from other WMU departments such as grants and contracts is required, and that specific deadlines must be abided.

Announcements

Hiremath reported that the Graduate Student Association provides funding to students, and asked for assistance in disseminating this information to any interested students. Information can be found on the GSA website.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Venter, seconded by DeFulio, to adjourn the meeting at 4:11 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Research Policies Council will meet next on 14 October 2021, at 2:30 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Robert Wall Emerson, Secretary

Minutes approved on 14 October 2021.