
RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL

Minutes of 11 November 2021

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 11 November 2021, via Webex video conferencing by Onur Arugaslan, chair.

Members in Attendance: Onur Arugaslan, Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Steven Carr, Martha Councell-Vargas, Whitney DeCamp, Listiani Eran, Wanda Hadley, David Huffman, Kristina Lemmer, Daria Orlowska, Mercedes Tubino-Blanco, Andre Venter, Robert Wall Emerson

Members Absent: Lori Brown, Sunki Hong (substitute for Paul Solomon)

Ex Officio(s) in Attendance: Anthony DeFulio

Ex Officio(s) Absent: Manuel Bautista

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Agenda

MOA-19/10 was postponed to the next meeting. The review of the Publication of Papers and Exhibition of Creative Works and the Faculty Research Travel Fund was added to the agenda.

[MOTION] It was moved by DeFulio, seconded by Huffman, to accept the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

A correction was made to the attendance.

[MOTION] It was moved by Wall Emerson, seconded by Hadley, to approve the minutes of 14 October 2021 as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Arugaslan noted the passing of Vice Chair Chris Coryn, and a moment of silence was observed.

Ex Officio DeFulio reported that the search for a new Vice President for Research and Innovation is now underway. At the most recent Faculty Senate meeting, two MOAs put forward from this council were removed from the agenda. They will be reviewed and resubmitted at the December meeting.

Reports of University Representatives

Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation Steven Carr noted that Cayuse is up and running for the Institutional Review Board. Contact Associate Director of Research Compliance Julia Mays regarding any issues. The Proposal Approval Form system will be replaced early next year. Due to Bautista taking on a new temporary position, there is a need for a new Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award and Support of Faculty Scholars Award chair.

Tubino-Blanco joined the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

Graduate College Dean Christine Byrd-Jacobs reported Graduate College Dean Christine Byrd-Jacobs clarified that in the search for the Vice President for Research and Innovation, the president is looking for someone focused on service, someone to encourage partnerships, and someone sensitive to different disciplines. Graduate student applications for research grants and travel grants are in and being processed.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

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

Unfinished Business

Due to Bautista's absence, the Faculty Research and Creative Activities/Support for Faculty Scholars Award was postponed.

New Business

Discussion was held regarding the funding available for Publication of Papers and Exhibition of Creative Works and the Faculty Research Travel Fund for this year. Carr reported the amounts remaining for FRACAA, SFSA, FRTF, and PPP&E. DeCamp noted that there is a discrepancy between the FRTF application language and the AAUP contract language. Councell-Vargas expressed that the maximum of two nights can be limiting. Discussion was held regarding the guidelines for FRACAA, SFSA, PPP&E, and FRTF. There were 284 applications during fiscal year 2019. It was stated that the budgeted amount for FRTF in the current fiscal year is much lower than in previous years. The current policy states that this council sets yearly amounts in September.

[MOTION] It was moved by DeCamp, seconded by Councell-Vargas, to increase the FRTF maximum to \$1,600 this fiscal year with faculty able to apply for up to the full amount over the course of more than one trip but limited to two trips, and to eliminate lodging restriction in terms of the number of nights. The motion carried unanimously.

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

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

[MOTION] It was moved by DeFulio, seconded by DeCamp, to increase the PPP&E limit to \$1,000 this fiscal year. The motion carried unanimously.

[MOTION] It was moved by Lemmer, seconded by Councell-Vargas, to allow FRTF support of faculty when traveling to support a student making a presentation by adding "operating in the role of mentor for a student presenter, as verified by the department chair or director" to the FRTF guidelines in the area of "purpose" of the FRTF. The motion carried unanimously.

[MOTION] It was moved by Lemmer, seconded by Councell-Vargas, to remove the limit on meals, within federal regulations, in FRTF awards. The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Venter stated that Web of Science access is gone from the Libraries. Carr suggested that Orlowska speak to the Associate Dean for Collections about reinstating access to Web of Science in future budgets. Carr will talk to Vice President for Budget Jan Van Der Klay about attending the December RPC meeting to explain the cuts to the funding levels for areas under the RPC purview.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Venter, seconded by DeCamp, to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Research Policies Council will meet next on 2 December 2021, at 2:30 p.m. virtually via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Robert Wall Emerson, Secretary

Minutes approved on 2 December 2021.