
RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL

Minutes of 14 April 2022

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 14 April 2022, via Webex video conferencing by Onur Arugaslan, chair.

Members in Attendance: Louai Al Somaly, Onur Arugaslan, Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Steven Carr, Martha Councell-Vargas, Whitney DeCamp, Listiani Eran, Sunki Hong (substitute for Paul Solomon), David Huffman, Rick Meyer (substitute for Kristina Lemmer), Daria Orlowska, Andre Venter, Robert Wall Emerson

Members Absent: Lori Brown, Wanda Hadley

Ex Officio in Attendance: Kieran Fogarty, Mark Hurwitz (substitute for Manuel Bautista)

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Agenda

The Standing Committee and University Representatives reports were moved earlier in the agenda.

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

Election of Officers

Ex Officio Fogarty led the election process. Wanda Hadley was nominated as chair, but due to her absence, confirmation of the nomination will take place at the next meeting. Robert Wall Emerson was elected as secretary. The elections will be concluded at the next meeting.

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by DeCamp, seconded by Huffman, to approve the 17 March 2022 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

Bautista provided the report of the Research Screening Subcommittee. The FRACAA competition has been completed. There were 23 proposals reviewed, with 12 being funded, 10 not being funded, and one that received mixed reviews but was ultimately funded. The total budget awarded was \$123,792. This year had fewer applications than expected, so the allocated funds were lower than in the past four years.

Councell-Vargas joined the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Carr joined the meeting at 2:56 p.m.

Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation Carr reported that there will be a carryover of \$325,000 to next year of the FRACAA, FRTF, PPP&E, and SFSA monies that were not distributed this year. Discussion was held regarding proposed changes to the FRACAA program to raise the maximum award to \$15,000 and allow faculty to apply for FRACAA in one-year intervals instead of two years. The council should consider these changes at its next meeting.

Bautista left the meeting at 3:12 p.m.

Reports of Officers

Chair Arugaslan reported that the second round of SFSA reviews was not able to be conducted due to a lack of time to solicit reviewers.

Ex Officio Fogarty thanked the council members and Chair Arugaslan.

Reports of University Representatives

Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation Carr reported on the upcoming spring convocation. A formal offer has been made to a candidate for Vice President of Research and Innovation.

Graduate College Dean Byrd-Jacobs reported that graduate student presentations are available to be viewed online for the 3-minute thesis event. A graduate student from WMU won first place at the Midwest Regionals.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

Hurwitz noted the exceptional work by Bautista on strengthening the FRACAA program. Hurwitz plans to advocate for increased maximum awards and to tweak the operations of the poster session and the review process. He also raised a question about how to fund faculty who are being charged for publications.

Unfinished Business

Ex Officio Fogarty stated that the renaming of the Office of Research and Innovation will be a discussion with the incoming Vice President.

Chair Arugaslan has begun preparing the council year-end report of which progress on charges will be included. It was suggested that proposed charges for the next academic year be discussed at the next meeting.

New Business

None.

Announcements

Venter presented on the cutting of research tools and journals at the University without sufficient input from faculty. Cuncell-Vargas noted the sudden disappearance of the music library in 2020 as well. It was confirmed that RPC is where discussion and exploration of the provisioning of research tools that the University Libraries should maintain. It was suggested that the topic be added as a 2022-23 RPC charge.

Fogarty noted that Hadley would be considering the nomination as RPC chair.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Carr, seconded by Fogarty, to adjourn the meeting at 4 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Research Policies Council will meet next on 12 May 2022, at 2:30 p.m. virtually via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Robert Wall Emerson, Secretary

Minutes approved on 10 May 2022.