University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

Research Policy Committee
2010-2011 Annual Report

Members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prasenjit Guptasarma</td>
<td>FAC</td>
<td>Physics</td>
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<td>James Moyer</td>
<td>FAC</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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<td>Susan Mcroy</td>
<td>FAC</td>
<td>Electrical Engineering &amp; Comp Sci</td>
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<td>Marjorie Piechowski</td>
<td>AS</td>
<td>Engineering &amp; Applied Science</td>
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<td>Beryl Forman</td>
<td>AS</td>
<td>University Safety &amp; Assurances</td>
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<td>Sheila Feay-Shaw</td>
<td>FAC</td>
<td>Music</td>
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<td>Larry Martin</td>
<td>FAC</td>
<td>Administrative Leadership</td>
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<td>Janice Eells</td>
<td>FAC</td>
<td>Clinical Lab Sciences</td>
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<td>Dave Crass</td>
<td>AS</td>
<td>UITS Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colin Scanes</td>
<td>Dean</td>
<td>Graduate School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ewa Barczyk</td>
<td>Dir</td>
<td>UWM Libraries</td>
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Charter:
Functions/ Responsibilities:

A3.7 Research Policy Committee

(1) Membership. Twelve members as follows: four elected faculty; one from each division of the University, elected by division; the Chairperson of the Graduate Faculty Council or designee; two faculty members and two members of the academic staff appointed by the Chancellor; the Director of the Libraries, Director of I&MT or designee and an appointee of the Graduate Dean, who serve ex-officio.

(Document 2169, 12/17/98; UWM Administration approval, 12/30/98)
(Editorially revised: Document 2319, 12/20/01; UWM Administration approval, 12/28/01)
(Document 2561, 2/15/07; UWM Administration approval, 3/15/07)
(Editorially revised, 5/16/07)

(2) Functions

a) On its own initiative or in cooperation with other faculty committees advises the Chancellor, Provost, and Vice-Chancellor of Research on matters of research policy within UWM.

(Document 2561, 2/15/07; UWM Administration approval, 3/15/07)
b) Within the context of overall allocation of research resources at UWM reviews:

1) the operation of the Graduate Research Committee
2) all university research units (i.e. the Graduate School, research centers, academic departments, Golda Meir Library, I&MT)
3) policies affecting the use and distribution of all research related funds.

The purpose of these reviews is to determine whether the various research committees, units, programs and related activities are consistent with the mission and research goals of the University.

c) Recommends and reviews overall University policy governing all mandated review boards within UWM (e.g., Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects, Institutional Safety and Hazards Committee, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee)

d) Monitors activities of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) through annual review of the IRB’s policies and procedures, workload, and actions on protocols submitted to the IRB.

(Document 1102, 5/11/78; UWM Administration approval, 5/17/78)  (Document 1680, 9/21/89; UWM Administration approval, 10/6/89)  (Document 1790, 10/17/91; UWM Administration approval, 10/31/91)  (Editorially revised: 4/26/02)  (Document 2561, 2/15/07; UWM Administration approval, 3/15/07)

Meetings:

Committee leadership

Professor Prasenjit Guptasarma was the chair of the RPC during the 2010-11 academic year.

Research infrastructure development

It has been the committee’s view in the past that UWM does not have an infrastructure appropriate to a research-intensive university. Our facilities are dated. The Kenwood IRC alone will not get us to the next level. For example, there is no Biosafety Level 2 facility on campus. This holds us back in terms of recruiting faculty. It is appropriate for the RPC, in its advisory role to the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor for Research, to
advocate for more resources and to attempt to mediate competition for resources among academic divisions on campus.

Cost efficiencies might be achieved if UWM encouraged sharing of expensive scientific equipment by locating it in shared facilities rather than individual labs. There is apparently no university-wide list of research equipment on campus. There should be a common list on the web that individuals can check before ordering big-ticket items to avoid duplication. Perhaps major equipment purchases out of university funds should be subject to a competitive selection process similar to that used to award grants under the Research Growth Initiative. Criteria for evaluation might include: number of potential users, criticality to the university mission, and long-term strategic impact on the mission of UWM.

High-level use of computing resources by research faculty is not adequately supported by UWM Information Technology (IT) staff at the campus, division and departmental level. In addition, IT policies have in some cases denied skilled faculty members the flexibility to adapt computers to specialized applications such as device controllers.

**Administrative support of research**

Comments received in the course of the strategic planning process make it clear that WISDM is not adequate for the purpose of grants management. The system should be revamped, or replaced, to achieve real-time reporting of fund account balances, reduce the amount of time that faculty researchers have to spend on research administration, and allow corrections to be made in a timely manner.

The RPC has also expressed concern about a lack of administrative support for principal investigators (PIs) who are responsible for the financial management of research grants. There is a dearth of administrative support for research at the department level, at least in some academic units on campus. The lack of support is a disincentive for faculty to pursue extramural funding for research. UWM needs to increase pre- and post-award research support staff and ensure that the process for allocation of staff resources is transparent.

**Collaborative research**

We can and should connect faculty with complementary research interests in order to foster collaboration. We need to recognize that all disciplines on campus are instrumental in meeting our goals. We also need to encourage our stakeholders in the community to express their support for our efforts. The potential reorganization of the UW System creates an additional challenge for growing UWM as a research institution. We need to invest in activities that truly bolster our reputation on the objective, meaningful metrics that determine our reputation as a research institution. We also need consistency in the vision expressed by university leadership and a clear understanding of the mission of the institution.
Other committee observations:

- UWM should consider funding a WISDM help desk within OSP
- UWM should implement its strategic plan and treat it as a “living document” that can change to meet new conditions
- UWM should provide reserved parking for research participants, off campus collaborators, etc.
- UWM should include parking (and/or transit alternatives) when planning any new facility
- The state and UW System purchasing rules make it difficult for researchers to secure research supplies, materials, personnel, and support services
- The strategic plan as it stands is only phase one; there needs to be an implementation plan developed that has deliverables, priorities and resources specified
- Some of the recommendations of the plan are controversial; the Graduate School should go ahead and implement the “low hanging fruit” that can be acted on without full faculty approval
- Further input from an outside consultant is recommended to advise UWM on a process for getting buy-in for the project
- The RPC accepts responsibility to take an active (but appropriate) role in moving the strategic plan forward to achieve necessary outcomes