

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE  
Research Policy and Advisory Committee

**Minutes**

April 1, 2022; 1:45 p.m.

**Via Microsoft Teams**

**1. Call to order and approval of the agenda**

Robin Mello called the meeting to order at 1:46 p.m.

Members Present:

Paul Brodwin, Liam Callanan, Noelle Chesley, Ann Hanlon, Mark Harris (ex officio), Jennifer Kibicho, Robin Mello (chair), Kate Mollen (ex officio), Michael Pauers, Jason Puskar (ex officio)

Members Absent:

Janis Eells, Jennifer Haas, Jay Kapellusch, Kristin Roosevelt, Alan Wiseman

Guests:

Kathleen Koch, Jeremy Miner, Kristian O'Connor, Michelle Schoenecker (Office of Research); Peter Schwander (ITPC liaison); Chia Vang (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion)

**2. Approval of the minutes**

The minutes of the March 4, 2022 meeting were approved as distributed.

**3. Carnegie Community Engagement Classification**

Chia Vang, Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, spoke about the designation and its importance in acknowledging UWM's many community connections through research and student experiential learning. Others who are involved in fostering community ties are Laurie Marks (Executive Director, Center for Community-Based Learning, Leadership, and Research) and Jennifer Abele (Senior Executive Director of Strategic Partnerships, Office of the Chancellor).

The 2015 Community Engagement Classification Letter from the Carnegie Foundation outlined areas for improvement. Dr. Vang will be asking for assistance from the RPAC and other groups in addressing these areas in anticipation of the classification renewal application.

Questions raised during discussion included:

What are the incentives for this type of work? How will it be counted toward tenure and promotion? Who is doing this type of research at UWM? Who is coordinating the outreach to prevent "fatigue" within certain community partners who are frequently contacted when funders require demonstration of community impact? What's working well already?

**4. Election of Chair for AY 22-23**

This item was postponed until the May 12 meeting. Continuing members who are eligible to serve as chair are Paul Brodwin, Janis Eells, Jay Kapellusch, Jennifer Kibicho, and Mike Pauers.

**5. Brief report on 2030 Work Group on Graduate Student Support**

Jason Puskar, Interim Dean of the Graduate School, presented the work group's comments and recommendations and provided historical perspective and rationale for them.

- We applaud the recent decision to build in regular increases to stipends for assistants, including an annual 2 percent increase for RAs and inclusion in future UW System pay plans for TAs.
- The team urges UWM to raise all stipends to a minimum of \$18,000, as GFC recommended last spring.
- In the short term, if UWM cannot meet GFC's recommendation for \$18,000 stipends, the master's tier should be raised from \$13,750 to \$15,000, and the doctoral tier from \$15,000 to \$17,000. The dissertator tier, currently \$16,600, should be folded in with the doctoral tier and raised to \$17,000 as well.
- Campus should specify a minimum stipend, rather than an absolute stipend rate that cannot be exceeded.
- Deans should be given additional flexibility to use some or all of their Chancellor's Award allotment to fund stipend increases, as well as other investments in research infrastructure.
- The current three tiers of TA stipends (master's, doctoral, dissertator) should be reduced to two tiers (master's and doctoral).

**6. Research Advocacy Document**

Robin Mello reviewed the revisions made to the document since the last meeting and asked members to continue providing input with the goal of approving the statement at the May 12 meeting.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 2:54 p.m.