
**Campus Planning and Finance Council
Minutes of 21 November 2023****Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Campus Planning and Finance Council was called to order at 3:10 p.m. on 21 November 2023 via Webex video conferencing by Geoffrey Lindenberg, chair.

Members Present: Todd Barkman, Cheryl Bruey, David Dakin, Betty Dennis, Brett Geier, LuMarie Guth, Mohammad Daneshvar Kakhki, Lynne Heasley, Valerian Kwizile, Geoffrey Lindenberg, Melissa Rajter, Colleen Scarff, Tyler Smith, Jan Van Der Kley

Members Absent:

Advisory Members Present: Christopher Cheatham, Jeff Spoelstra

Advisory Member Absent: Tony Proudfoot

Ex Officio Member Present: John Jellies

Quorum

A quorum was present with 17 members in attendance, of the 10 needed to establish quorum.

Agenda

It was moved by Scano, seconded by Dennis, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

It was moved by Van Der Kley, seconded by Heasley, to approve the 17 October 2023 minutes as presented. With two abstentions, the motion carried.

Reports of Officers

Chair Lindenberg reported on the Faculty Senate meeting. Topics included the Family Friendship Program, faculty grants for experience-driven education, Lunches with the Provost event series, and faculty fees in support of the Faculty Senate.

Ex Officio Jellies reported that the Executive Board appointed Jeff Spoelstra, Director, Office for Sustainability as an advisory member to the council.

Reports of University Representatives

Scarff provided the University Budgets report. Funding has not been secured for the Knauss Hall project, which makes WMU eligible for deferred maintenance one-time funding. It is expected to be eight million. A committee will be convening in fall 2024 to revisit the SRM budget rules. The [revenue report](#) is available by college for fall 2023.

Van Der Kley did not provide a Business and Finance report.

Cheatham provided the Provost Budget and Personal report. Spring 2024 headcount, compared to last year at 57 days before census, is down 1.6% (-189). Undergraduate enrollment is down 3.2% (-321) and graduate enrollment is up 6.5% (+132). Spring 2024 student credit hours, compared to last year at 57 days before census, is down 0.5% (-1,563). Undergraduate enrollment is down 1.2% (-1,563) and graduate enrollment is up 5.5% (+798). These changes are expected based on fall 2023 enrollment trends and are currently outperforming the spring 2024 forecast. Retention is up 2 to 3 percentage points for sophomore and senior classes and down less than half a percentage point for freshman and junior classes compared to last fall. Applications and admits are trending high compared to this time last year. Undergraduate beginner applications and admits are up 13.2% (+1,970) and 53.2% (+4,302),

respectively. The large improvement in admits mostly reflects a quicker processing time by the Office of Admissions. Undergraduate transfer applications and admits are up 10.7% (+40) and 13.3% (+26), respectively. Master's applications are down 1.5% (-6) while admits are up 20% (+14) and doctoral application are flat (0) and admits are down 20% (-2).

Due to his absence Proudfoot did not provide the marketing and Strategic Communication report.

Dakin provided the Campus Facilities Development report. The Henry Hall refresh is progressing. A construction manager has been selected and work is to be completed this summer. Reoccupation is slated for fall 2024. The women's basketball locker room is finished to the point of reoccupation. The Stadium Club project is progressing into Stage 2, and the project is set to be completed over the summer. The Hilltop parking structure project has encountered adverse soil conditions, which are being resolved, however, there is potential for a delay. Van Der Kley announced that the Space Advisory Commission will be distributing communication at the beginning of the calendar year for the formation of task forces.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Spoelstra announced a request for a quarter-time Faculty Fellow for Climate Change Solutions to lead the next iteration of campus planning efforts toward carbon neutrality. The Fellow will also select a graduate assistant to work on the project.

Spoelstra led discussion regarding resource links on recent climate updates that are available at:

- [Fifth National Climate Assessment \(globalchange.gov\)](https://www.globalchange.gov)
- [Report Charts Climate Change's Growing Impact in the US, While Stressing Benefits of Action - Inside Climate News](#)
- [Midwest \(globalchange.gov\)](https://www.globalchange.gov)
- [Five charts on the changing Midwestern climate * Michigan Advance](#)
- [Senate 'Clean Energy Future' bills move to governor's desk * Michigan Advance](#)
- [Speakers Bureau | Climate Change Working Group | Western Michigan University \(wmich.edu\)](#)

Discussion was held regarding the status of the transportation subcommittee. The transportation subcommittee was active during the period of the transportation survey and is currently inactive. Transportation will be a part of the upcoming campus master plan. Discussion was held regarding the status of the energy efficiency of specific campus buildings. Details will be distributed within the Space Advisory Committee report. Replacing energy inefficient buildings creates large climate impacts. One consideration for the future is a fully electric buildings that do not rely on steam. In addition to solar infrastructure, WMU has two geothermal fields. A future consideration in evaluation for new solar arrays is improvement in battery storage capabilities. Discussion was held regarding messaging around the demolition of Bernhard Center, with an emphasis on reiterating the reasons for the demolition.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

It was moved by Bruey, seconded by Dennis, to adjourn the meeting at 4:21 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Campus Planning and Finance Council will meet next on 5 December 2023 via Webex video conferencing at 3 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by LuMarie Guth, Secretary

Minutes approved 5 December 2023.