

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**  
**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**  
**Minutes of 8 October 2009**

The Faculty Senate met in the Banquet Rooms of the Fetzer Center. There were 68 Senators and substitutes present. **Absent:** T. Bailey, K. Baldner, V. Bliznuk, K. Hearit, K. Kaugars, C. Klekar, B. Ferrin, D. Pence, R. Rabiej, and J. Ruhl. **Also present:** Said AbuBakr, chair, Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging; Janice Anderson and Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office; Nick Andreadis, acting dean, Lee Honors College; Jon Andrews, Biosciences Research and Commercialization Center; Casey Barrons, Amit Harris, Andrew Ladd, and Zack Spencer, Western Student Association; Andrea Beach, Office of Faculty Development; Paula Davis, Kalamazoo Gazette; Eileen Evans, vice provost for institutional effectiveness; Dawn Gaymer, associate provost for Extended University Programs; Richard Gershon, Communication; James Gilchrist, vice provost and chief information officer; Harold Glasser, chair, President's Universitywide Sustainability Committee; Bassam Harik, vice provost for budget and personnel, academic affairs; Carol Hustoles, vice president for legal affairs and general counsel; Jack Luderer, executive director, Biosciences Research and Commercialization Center; Patrick Munley, chair, Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology; Lewis Pyenson, dean, Graduate College; Cheryl Roland, executive director, University Relations; Gary Wegenke, dean, Education and Human Development; and Linda Zoeller, director, WMU Bronson School of Nursing.

**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

Faculty Senate President John Jellies called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

*Acceptance of the Agenda*  
*Approval of the Minutes of 17 September 2009*

It was moved and seconded to accept the agenda. Motion carried.  
A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

*Faculty Senate Executive Board Report – John Jellies, Faculty Senate President*

Jellies welcomed all guests, including:

- Student representatives from the Western Student Association
- Dawn Gaymer, the new associate provost for Extended University Programs
- New senators elected by their departments since the last meeting:
  - Karen Bondarchuk, Gwen Frostic School of Art
  - Gunther Hega, Political Science

Jellies announced he will be moderating three public fora on the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan. He expected the provost and the deans would be in attendance to take notes and field questions. He referred Senators to the WMU News for more information. Jellies suggested the Faculty Senate be more formally engaged in the strategic planning process in the future.

Moving forward in challenging times to serve disciplines, students, and University, Jellies hoped he and his faculty colleagues bring all their expertise to bear on important issues, look forward to planning for the future and expand their ideas to think about possibilities outside of their accustomed views. To his leadership colleagues, he hoped they can remain aware and appreciate how difficult it can be to raise one's gaze to the horizon, when one's nose is held so firmly to the grindstone.

*Remarks by John Dunn – WMU President*

President Dunn commented on the following:

- Fall enrollment is 24,576, less than 1% difference from fall 2008. Graduate student enrollment has increased; as has ethnic diversity, ACT average, and recruitment of students from the upper 10% of their high school class.
- Orchard Property – The original agreement for this land was approved by the Michigan legislature and changes to that agreement must be approved by the same body. The land has been used by Michigan State University for research, and MSU is ready to vacate the site.
- Events Center – The proposed events center for downtown Kalamazoo would be for more than just sports. Enhancement of the arts, a retail corridor, and housing options are also being discussed for this area. The president believes this center would be good for the community since WMU is part of Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo is the home of WMU. He said whatever happens; it cannot cost WMU any money.
- Lansing – He was hopeful money will be found in the new budget for the Michigan Promise. WMU decided not to include this as part of financial aid; rather, if this is approved, WMU will refund the promise money to students. We have a continuing commitment for Phase II of the renovation of Sangren Hall.
- Fan behavior – The president is concerned by the behavior of fans at sporting events and asked for the faculty's help in trying to address this. He gave an example of another school which applauds its opponents when entering the field and welcomes the visiting team. The president would always like to see that respectful treatment of others by WMU fans, so the University is always represented at its best.

*Remarks by Provost Tim Greene*

Provost Greene's remarks:

- He introduced Dawn Gaymer, newly appointed associate provost for Extended University Programs. Gaymer is a Grand Rapids native and most recently held a position at Eastern Michigan University.
- Updates on dean searches:
  - College of Education and Human Development – Recommendations for candidate visits to campus are anticipated the week of October 26
  - Haworth College of Business – Dave Powell, dean of the College of Aviation, is chairing this committee. The advertisement is out and airport interviews are expected in early

December, with on-campus candidate visits planned for mid to late January. A decision is targeted for March.

- **College of Arts and Sciences** – Thomas Kent will be stepping down as dean and will teach in the English department. Earlie Washington, dean of the College of Health and Human Services, will chair this search committee. The committee is being formed and the provost asked for volunteers, noting the makeup is approximately half faculty and half administrators. The schedule for this search is expected to be: advertisement out by November, airport interviews late January, on campus candidate visits in March, and a new dean in place by July 1.
- Three fora are scheduled for the proposed Academic Affairs Strategic Plan on October 13, October 30, and November 4. The discussion will focus on where we are going as a university. All e-mail comments regarding the strategic plan are to be directed to [office-of-the-provost@wmich.edu](mailto:office-of-the-provost@wmich.edu).
- The budget for 2010-11 has been sent out to colleges for serious planning.
- First grade reports – This is a new initiative for first year students to check their grades early in the semester. The faculty response has been outstanding, with grades from 580 sections being reported. This initiative, along with mid-term grading, impact retention. He also noted the importance of faculty reporting students who were missing classes early in the semester, so there can be follow-up to reach those students.

### **INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

*Rubric Award Team Competition – Amy Curtis, Vice Chair,  
Graduate Studies Council*

Senator Curtis noted this competition was developed by the GSC. The University Assessment Award will support the efforts of masters students dealing with assessment. An orientation will take place on October 28. The first place team will receive \$1,000 and participate in Research Day in April 2010.

*Sustainability Report – Harold Glasser, Chair,  
President's Universitywide Sustainability Committee*

Glasser is an associate professor in the Environmental Studies Program and an internationally recognized expert in implementation of sustainability initiatives. He spoke about the mission and goals of the University to meet its commitment to advance responsible environmental stewardship. Glasser noted the Faculty Senate and the Western Student Association approved a mission statement on 15 December 2003. In addition, WMU signed the Talloires Declaration on 1 January 2008, stating that WMU will be a leader in developing, creating, supporting and maintaining sustainability. While the President's Universitywide Sustainability Committee was initially established in an advisory capacity, its role has turned to implementation. He discussed campus initiatives in energy savings and sustainability. <http://www.wmich.edu/sustainability>

*School of Medicine Update – John Dunn, WMU President, and Jack Luderer,  
Executive Director, Biosciences Research and Commercialization Center*

President Dunn noted we are not in a race to plan for a school of medicine. He wants to be thorough and have a comprehensive look at this. Partners would be Bronson Methodist Hospital and Borgess Medical Center. The commitment would be for a private medical school within a public domain. The president plans to continue to engage faculty in this process.

Dr. Luderer provided an update to his February 5 presentation to the Senate. He commented on a physician shortage and indicated there was a window of time in which to implement a medical school. Consultants who assessed the feasibility of a medical school at WMU were impressed and surprised at the resources already in place in the area. Luderer discussed an academic health center where there would be patient care, research, and education. A medical school would need one hospital as its primary collaborator.

President Dunn discussed some of the challenges in establishing a medical school, with fund raising as the primary one. Additional faculty and library resources would be needed. He plans on engagement of the faculty through a committee concept.

Several questions were raised by faculty. Luderer indicated we would not be competing with the University of Michigan, but rather on a national and global basis. In response to an inquiry about a timeline if this were to be implemented, Luderer noted that it could still be four or five years out. He also said there is a specific timeline for accreditation.

### **PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC CONCERNS**

Concerns were raised regarding the H1N1 vaccine and costs for students. Linda Zoeller, director of the WMU Bronson School of Nursing, commented she had received word that WMU nursing students could not be in Bronson Methodist Hospital without the vaccine. Diane Anderson, vice president for student affairs, noted we are waiting to hear from the Centers for Disease Control about the cost of the vaccine.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The next Senate meeting will be held on Thursday, 5 November, in the Fetzer Center.

Senate President Jellies adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Janice Anderson  
Suzanne Davenport  
Faculty Senate Office