

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Minutes of 5 November 2009

The Faculty Senate met in the Banquet Rooms of the Fetzer Center. There were 67 Senators and substitutes present. **Absent:** S. Asefa, T. Bailey, R. Cooper, P. Farber, J. Gilchrist, K. Hearit, H. Koole, P. Krawutschke, J. Oh, L. Bierlein Palmer, C. Pavlik, and P. Solomon. **Also present:** Janice Anderson and Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office; Casey Barrons and Andrew Smith, Western Student Association; Betty Dennis, associate dean, Extended University Programs; Zarineh El-Amin Naeem, Office of Diversity and Inclusion; Bassam Harik, vice provost for budget and personnel, academic affairs; Carol Hustoles, vice president for legal affairs and general counsel; Marilyn Kritzman, AAUP; Carly Kuppe, Western Herald; James Leja, chair, Blindness and Low Vision Studies; Tierra Marshall, Office of Faculty Development; Jodie Palmer, director of diversity inclusion, College of Education and Human Development; Peter Strazdas, associate vice president for facilities management; Earlie Washington, dean, College of Health and Human Services.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Faculty Senate President John Jellies called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Acceptance of the Agenda
Approval of the Minutes of 8 October 2009

As President John Dunn would be arriving from another engagement, a motion was made to amend the agenda to allow his remarks whenever he arrived. It was moved and seconded to accept the amended agenda. Motion carried. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of 8 October. Motion carried.

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

Jellies mentioned the upcoming General Election and nominating petitions for president, vice president and three representatives-at-large would be available shortly.

James Leja, chair of Blindness and Low Vision Studies, provided a remembrance of faculty colleague Susan Ponchillia who passed away on October 12. Noting Ponchillia had been at the University for 28 years and was scheduled to retire in December; Leja shared highlights of her work and contributions to WMU and her students.

Jellies made the following remarks:

- The Research Policies Council will host a discussion, including a brief presentation and question/answer period with the candidate for the vice president for research on Tuesday, 17 November, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Brown and Gold Room of the Bernhard Center for anyone interested.
- Progress toward a medical school has made a substantial leap forward. He called on colleagues to take advantage of opportunities to lend their

expertise and ideas to the process, as faculty should play a profound role in helping as that process moves forward.

- He encouraged colleagues to contact elected officials in Lansing, as legislators complain they don't hear from faculty.
- Several memoranda of action from the International Education Council are anticipated for the 3 December Senate agenda.
- The Professional Concerns Committee may revisit the hardship policy.
- The Executive Board is looking into forming an ad hoc committee to explore obstacles and opportunities to involve undergraduate students in research and scholarly activities.
- He intends to ask the Executive Board to establish an ad hoc committee representing the general areas of all councils and committees to engage in what should be an ongoing conversation about faculty involvement in strategic planning. With the support of senators, he hopes that before his term as president ends this will be a standing function with the Faculty Senate.

Remarks by Provost Tim Greene

Provost Greene's remarks:

- Updates on dean searches:
 - College of Education and Human Development – Two candidates have been to campus and the provost will meet with the search committee shortly.
 - Haworth College of Business – Over twelve applications with airport interviews expected in early December.
 - College of Arts and Sciences – The committee is being formed.
- Three University wide forums were held for the proposed Academic Affairs Strategic Plan, moderated by Senate President Jellies. The provost attended several college and departmental meetings to discuss this and received emails from many departments and faculty. Comments will be summarized and sent back to the deans for review. The WMU Board of Trustees has also reviewed and contributed their comments. Input into the Strategic Plan is welcome through the end of November.
- The number of mid-term grades reported increased to an all time high and the provost noted the importance of this for student retention. In 2008, 783 sections compared to 1071 sections this year turned in grades, a 30% increase. Over 31,000 student grades were submitted compared to 25,000 student grades last year, a 20% increase. He asked Senators to thank their departmental colleagues on behalf of the provost and the students.
- Budget planning usually begins in May. For 2010-11, budget planning began in October to allow a ten month planning window. Deans given a potential range of cuts from three to four and one half million dollars a range of about 1.6% - 2.4%. It was not an across the board cut but varied from 1% to 3.5% Included in the consideration of the cuts were:
 - credit hours generated over years in a college
 - undergraduates and graduates by college
 - research dollars over time
 - fund 11 dollars provided to the college
 - productivity measures

- quality vs. quantity

Enrollment – recruitment and retention – directly reduces the impact on the budget. Approximately 1% change in enrollment represents 1.7 million dollars. Tuition and enrollment provides 67% of the budget for academic affairs, while the other third comes from the state.

Remarks by John Dunn – WMU President

President Dunn commented on the following:

- Lansing – Governor Jennifer Granholm requested to meet with the state university presidents. She will travel around the state in the next three weeks to generate support for pre-primary through 12 education and the Michigan Promise. WMU has offered to host a visit, but nothing concrete has been confirmed.
- Board of Trustees – Members held a retreat on 2 November. Senate President Jellies provided very thoughtful information regarding program review. Differential tuition, the overall pricing structure (WMU remains 10th among the 15 universities in cost of attendance), and campus housing were discussed by the trustees.
- Medical School – The Board of Trustees affirmed its support to proceed with planning for a medical school. The next steps are to select a dean pro tem; submit an application to the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME); structure a committee to deal with financial, facilities, library, and faculty issues; and formally secure relationships with hospital partners. This has been made much easier by a 1.8 million dollar gift from an anonymous donor specifically designated for this purpose.
- Development and Alumni Relations – With the upcoming retirement of Bud Bender, vice president for development, in July 2010, a search committee will be formed for a vice president for development and alumni relations. There are over 175,000 alumni, of which only 10,000 to 11,000 are members of the Alumni Association.
- Vice President for Research – Out of five applications, one candidate has been recommended for this position, Daniel Litynski. The Senate's Research Policies Council will host a discussion with him.
- Budget – The University is thoughtful and careful about resources, as the state continues to struggle and WMU's reserves are thin.

Senator Aravamathan asked about differential tuition and President Dunn said this is being looked into with the deans. Some disciplines, especially those with a strong clinical or internship component, have a greater cost than other curricula.

ACTION ITEMS

Budget and Faculty Fees Request – John Jellies

The 2009 fiscal year ended with \$7,855 in the Faculty Fees budget and the 2010 fiscal year is projected near the same amount. Faculty fees enable the Senate to support the important work of shared governance through Senate, council, and committee meetings. Although the bylaws allow an annual increase in faculty fees, this year's fee will remain at \$13 as it has been for several years. Requests

will be mailed shortly and Jellies encouraged support of the Senate's work. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed budget for FY2010. Motion carried.

Council Elections – Dennis Simpson, Senate Vice President and Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee

Senate Vice President Simpson noted the Nominations and Elections Committee recruited faculty to fill vacancies on councils. Since each candidate was running unopposed, as allowed by the Senate Bylaws, the candidates may be elected by acclamation. A motion was made and seconded to approve the following slate. Motion carried.

- Campus Planning and Finance Council - JoAnn L. Atkin, Marketing
- Graduate Studies Council - Bruce Ferrin, Marketing
- Undergraduate Studies Council - Kathryn Hillenbrand, Speech Pathology and Audiology, and Ilana Nash, English

INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Faculty and Professional Learning Communities Project (connected with Kalamazoo Race Exhibit) – Zarinah El-Amin Naeem, Race Exhibit Coordinator, Jodie Palmer, Director of Diversity Inclusion in the College of Education and Human Development, and Tierra Marshall, Faculty Development Office

Background on the Office of Diversity and Inclusion was provided. The office was established by President Dunn in 2008 in part to implement the Diversity and Multiculturalism Action Plan (DMAP) and to present the 2010 exhibit, "RACE: Are We So Different?" WMU will participate in hosting this event at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum starting in October 2010.

The Everyone Counts project is a year-long professional development opportunity organized by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion with the Office of Faculty Development for faculty and staff to develop understanding and better respond to the University's increasingly diverse campus. Presenters invited participation from WMU faculty, graduate student instructors, and staff members. For further information, visit the following Web sites:

<http://www.wmich.edu/diversityandinclusion> and <http://www.understandingrace.org/>

Classroom Condition Audit – Peter Strazdas, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management

Pete Strazdas provided an analysis of the physical characteristics of campus classrooms, resulting from an audit of 546 classrooms in 25 buildings. This audit was performed by students. President Dunn dedicated \$100,000 for strategic room upgrades which will result in new chairs, drapery and painting in Moore, Dunbar, and North Korhman Halls.

With the downsizing of the maintenance staff four or five years ago, Strazdas encouraged faculty to report problems with classroom conditions using the Bronco

fix-it Web site. This has been very successful and faculty were encouraged to report problems to <http://broncofixit.pp.wmich.edu/>

See the Strazdas PowerPoint presentation at <http://www.wmich.edu/facultysenate/downloads/Classroom.Cond.Analysis.pptx>

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC CONCERNS

Senator Nibert asked about the Verification of Faculty Credentials Policy and the associated costs involved, especially those from international universities. Provost Greene responded this was a requirement of the Higher Learning Commission for accreditation. The credentials for new hires have already been obtained and now transcripts of the terminal degree are needed for all faculty. The provost directed faculty requesting international credentials to go through the Haenicke Institute for Global Education, which will assist with the cost involved.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Senate meeting will be held on Thursday, 3 December, in the Fetzer Center.

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

Janice Anderson
Suzanne Davenport
Faculty Senate Office