

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Minutes of 4 February 2010

The Faculty Senate met in the Fetzer Center Banquet Rooms. There were 65 Senators and substitutes present. **Absent:** S. Asefa, T. Bailey, B. Barton, M. Bundza, R. Cooper, K. Hearit, M. Lagerwey, R. Landeros, K. McDonnell, J. Oh, C. Pavlik, L. Rinker, W. Sauck, G. Veeck. **Also present:** Janice Anderson and Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office; Nick Andreadis, interim dean, Lee Honors College; Jen Bailey, Danna Downing, and Cari Robertson, Western Wellness; Andrea Beach, director of faculty development; Sue Caulfield, director of academic collective bargaining and contract administration; Betty Dennis, associate dean, Extended University Programs; Eileen Evans, vice provost for institutional effectiveness; Mike Fouts, Juwan Allen Watson, and Steven Secrest, Higher Education and Student Affairs students; Dawn Gaymer, associate provost for Extended University Programs; Bassam Harik, vice provost for budget and personnel, academic affairs; David Huffman, Chemistry; Carol Hustoles, vice president for legal affairs and general counsel; Dan Litynski, vice president for research; Suzie Nagel, associate dean of students; Eric Pacifici, Zach Spencer, Alexander Smith and Josh Weaver, Western Student Association; Lewis Pyenson, dean, Graduate College; David Reinhold, associate provost for assessment and undergraduate studies; Cheryl Roland, executive director, University Relations; Elke Schoffers, Chemistry; Raymond Thompson, associate dean, College of Aviation; Paul Wilson, WMU-AAUP.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

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

Acceptance of the Agenda

It was moved and seconded to accept the agenda. A motion was made to amend the agenda to move the second Action Item, first reading of a Bylaw amendment, to Information/Discussion Items. The motion to amend carried, and the amended agenda was adopted.

Approval of the Minutes of 3 December 2009

The minutes of 3 December were approved as published.

Approval of the Minutes of 28 January 2010

The minutes of 28 January were approved as published.

Remarks by John Dunn – WMU President

President Dunn commented on the following:

- Due to student requests for increased on-campus housing, an apartment complex will be built on campus. This is the first phase of planned additional student apartment housing.
- Under the proposed arrangement for the downtown events center, no money from the University will be used to build the structure. The president believes

whatever is good for the community is inherently good for the University. The property donated to WMU needs to be used for such a purpose by a specified time or it reverts back to the donor. He is concerned with foot traffic for students from WMU and Kalamazoo College to access downtown easily and safely using walkways and bridges.

- Acquisition of Noble Lodge on the corner of Howard and Oakland makes- all of the former state hospital grounds now under the purview of WMU with the exception of the water tower. The exterior of the lodge is structurally good but due to lack of use, there is a certain amount of deterioration on the interior. Ideas for possible uses for the building are welcomed.
- A proposal has been made by Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop regarding reducing health care costs. President Dunn believes the proposed plan would be more expensive than our current plan, as we are self-insured.
- Budget cost cutting ideas are due to Dean Honsberger, associate vice president for budget and planning, by February 15. The president will engage the Campus Planning and Finance Council in discussions regarding the budget. WMU has dropped from a reserve of approximately \$29 million to \$11.5 million.
- This evening he will attend an event to recognize men in MAC sports. WMU has the highest GPA in men's sports in the MAC.
- He recognized students for their work in planning an event last Friday to celebrate diversity, as part of the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration and also for their recent efforts in sustainability and waste reduction.

Remarks by Tim Greene – Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Provost Greene made the following remarks:

- He thanked senators for their time at last week's Senate meeting regarding the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan. The plan and materials he used at that meeting are now available on the Provost's Web site.
- Dean searches:
 - Haworth College of Business – Additional candidates are being sought and a search firm has been contacted to assist in that effort. The target for airport interviews is early April.
 - College of Arts and Sciences – The search is moving forward with 30-40 applicants in hand and airport interviews set for February 19 and 20.
 - Keith Hearit accepted the permanent position of vice provost for strategic enrollment management and resigned as dean of the Lee Honors College.
 - Nick Andreadis, who has been serving as acting dean of the Lee Honors College, will serve as interim dean while an internal search is conducted for a permanent dean. The search committee will be chaired by Donald McCloud, dean of the Haenicke Institute for Global Education.
- The provost was recently at Kalamazoo Valley Community College meeting with community college vice presidents and provosts from five community colleges to discuss forming closer relationships and better articulation agreements. Similar discussions were held at Oakland Community College earlier this week.

ACTION ITEMS

Nominations for Faculty Senate President and Vice President – John Jellies

Senate President Jellies noted the Senate president and vice president are to be nominated at the February meeting. One petition for Senate president had been received from Peter Krawutschke, Foreign Languages, and one petition for Senate vice president had been received from William Rantz, Aviation Sciences. Since fewer than two nominating petitions were received, Jellies asked for additional nominations from the floor. Hearing none, nominations were closed.

Ballots for Senate president and vice president will be sent by email on 8 February to all faculty. Even though there is only one candidate for each position, the Senate constitution requires a faculty vote.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

1st Reading, Amendment to Article VII: Committees, Sec. 1 of Bylaws, to Make the Committee on Extended University Programs/Online Education a Standing Committee of the Faculty Senate – Dennis Simpson, Committee Chair

An amendment to the Senate Bylaws was proposed relative to the Ad Hoc Committee on Extended University Programs/ Online Education. The committee was established by Senate President Jellies and the Faculty Senate Executive Board to discuss, deliberate and make recommendations to the Executive Board, the Senate, and the associate provost for EUP. The committee has been meeting regularly during the last year. The Senate Executive Board approved the committee's request to become a permanent standing committee of the Senate.

As chair of this committee, Simpson proposed an amendment to the Senate Bylaws as a first reading (in bold):

Bylaws, Article VII: Committees

Sec. 1. In addition to those committees named in Article VII, Sec. 5, of the constitution (Nominations and Elections Committee), the following shall be standing committees of the Senate: **Committee on Extended University Programs/Online Education**, Faculty Retirement Recognition, Professional Concerns and Library.

A second reading, discussion and vote will take place at the 11 March Senate meeting. Questions or concerns regarding the proposed amendment should be referred to Dennis Simpson prior to that meeting.

Western Wellness – Jen Bailey, Cari Robertson, and Danna Downing
<http://www.wmich.edu/facultysenate/downloads/Wellness.2.4.2010.pptx>

The purpose of Western Wellness is to empower employees to adopt and maintain healthy lifestyle behaviors to promote a culture of wellness on campus to improve morale and productivity and to overall assist in reducing healthcare costs. Holtyn & Associates' One-to-One program is at no cost to benefit eligible employees. It incorporates individual assessment of employees, sets personal goals, and links employees to campus and community resources. The focus of the program is prevention and changing behavior.

Studies show that attempting to improve health and lifestyle has a success rate of approximately 20% when done independently, while the number significantly increases to around 80% with assistance. While much of health is based on genetic and environmental factors, approximately 50% of health is up to the individual. The presenters welcomed any requests to meet with individuals or departments to discuss this program.

Graduate Studies and the Distinctive Identity of Western Michigan University – Lewis Pyenson, Dean, Graduate College

Pyenson proposed there is a distinctive character to the University and that it resides in the ranges and depth of its graduate programs. Graduate Education focuses on two activities – truth seeking and truth applying. In truth seeking students learn to present original and significant projects, which can be creative endeavors or capstone projects. In truth applying programs student prepare for a particular profession.

Undergraduate education familiarizes students with general culture and offers a detailed view of a particular approach to the world. Graduate education involves sophisticated engagement.

The Graduate College does the following:

- tracks 1300 graduate assistantships as well as other awards
- tracks progress of students as they work toward their degree and offers programs to help them complete their individual thesis or dissertation
- offers workshops for students
- processes theses and dissertations
- works with a number of departments in recruiting students
- places central importance on research by continually improving on the principles, the standards and approaches to research that are followed elsewhere.

A question was raised about a letter Dean Pyenson recently wrote to The Chronicle of Higher Education. His letter was motivated by another which called for the federal government to give money to select universities.

Higher Learning Commission – Eileen Evans, Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness
<http://www.wmich.edu/hlc>

Evans distributed a handout and provided an update on the University's activities as it prepares for a ten-year review from the Higher Learning Commission. The Steering Committee is committed to writing a data-driven, analytical, evaluative self-study that accurately present's Western's development over the past ten years as an institution that is future oriented, distinctive, learning-focused, and connected. The aim is to write a useful self-study and show that WMU has been fulfilling its mission.

She pointed out examples of information gathered: the addition of the Memorandum of Action 2009 log on the Faculty Senate's Web site; meeting summaries of Provost's Council; Academic Affairs Strategic Plan; Business and Finance Strategic Plan; and an updated University Information Technology Plan. A new committee was formed to refine

means by which data are collected, cataloged, and stored at the course and faculty levels. The draft report of the self-study will be available for campus input on the Web site noted above on February 12.

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC CONCERNS

There were no concerns expressed.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 11 March, in the Fetzer Center. Senate President Jellies adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Janice Anderson
Suzanne Davenport

Faculty Senate Office