

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
Minutes of 1 April 2010**

*Remarks by John Dunn – WMU President*

The Faculty Senate met in the Fetzer Center Banquet Rooms. There were 63 Senators and substitutes present. **Absent:** T. Bailey, B. Barton, J. Berkow, K. Bondarchuk, R. Cooper, A. Curtis, L. Foulk, R. Landeros, H. Nibert, J. Oh, L. Palmer, W. Rantz, D. Salisbury, R. Siebert, L. Rinker, P. Solomon. **Also present:** Janice Anderson and Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office; Dennis Corbin and Jeff Stone, athletics; Paula Davis, Kalamazoo Gazette; Bassam Harik, vice provost for budget and personnel, academic affairs; Carol Hustoles, vice president for legal affairs and general counsel; Fritz Klug, Western Herald; Michelle Nickerson and Juwan Watson, Higher Education and Student Affairs students; David Reinhold, associate provost for assessment and undergraduate studies; Cheryl Roland, executive director, University Relations; Richard Spates, psychology; Anthony Vizzini, dean, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Earle Washington, dean, College of Health and Human Services; Athletic Board – Fred Sitkins (chair), Hal Bates, Stephen Craig, Lisa DeChano, and Bud Donnelly; Senate Committee on Extended University Programs/Online Education – Michele Behr, Betty Dennis, Eileen Evans, Dawn Gaymer, and Geoffrey Whitehurst; Millennial Project – Bob Wertkin (chair), Andrea Beach, Nathifa Davis, Lauren Goldberg, Dan Jacobson, Michelle McWilliams, Tracey Moon, Suzie Nagel, Adam Newsted, Brynne Newsted, Sue Oole, and Nancy Schullery; Western Student Association – Casey Barrons, Aaron Booth, Christina Clarke, and Alexander Smith.

**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

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

*Acceptance of the Agenda*

It was moved and seconded to accept the agenda. The agenda was adopted.

*Approval of the Minutes of 11 March*

The minutes of 11 March were approved as published.

*Faculty Senate Executive Board Report*

Faculty Senate President John Jellies commented on the following:

- The Executive Board reviewed and endorsed a proposal for the Center for Health Information Technology Advancement, a joint effort between the Bronson School of Nursing and Business Information Systems.
- The appraisal of the provost will be mailed to faculty on 2 April. The members of the committee which reviewed the instrument were thanked for their service: William Rantz (chair), Kieran Fogarty, David Hartmann, Peter Krawutschke, Stephen Magura, and John Miller.
- Aaron Booth, newly elected president of the Western Student Association, was introduced and congratulated on his election.
- The Presidential Scholars Convocation was held on 25 March to recognize outstanding undergraduate students from the academic areas.

President Dunn commented on the following:

- Two new appointments to the Board of Trustees by Governor Jennifer Granholm have been announced and are effective January 2011: George Franklin and John Cakmakci. They will replace Kenneth Miller and William Martin, whose terms expire in December.
- Meetings were held in the Detroit area to affirm WMU's commitment to that part of the state. Thirty percent of the University's students are from that area. A WMU office will be opening soon in Detroit.
- Some of the suggestions for budget saving ideas on campus included: looking at course duplication, maximizing summer offerings, expanding online courses, and installing motion sensors on lighting.
- Several campus individuals were recognized: Susan Stapleton, associate dean, College of Arts and Sciences, on being named an American Council on Education Fellow; Sandra Glista, master clinical faculty specialist, speech pathology and audiology, for receiving the Honors of the Association award from the Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association; and Aaron Booth, on his election as president of the Western Student Association; graduate student G. William Zorn for receiving the Mark Twain Prize for Comic Playwriting from the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival for his play, "Metropolis Has No Superman," and WMU's student concrete canoe team for its second place showing in the 2010 American Society of Civil Engineers North-Central Regional competition.

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

Provost Greene made the following remarks:

- Dean searches:
  - Haworth College of Business – airport interviews have been scheduled.
  - Lee Honors College – internal applications were in and two or three candidates will be interviewed.
  - College of Arts and Sciences – The search committee is receiving comments on the four finalists.
- Yield events continue to get admitted students to come to WMU.
- Upcoming events:
  - May 1 – commencement
  - September 1 – Fall Welcome and Pizza with the Profs
  - October 1 – Professional Activities Reports due (earlier than usual, due to Higher Learning Commission site visit)
  - October 18, 19, and 20 – HLC coming to campus

**INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

*Oversight of Intercollegiate Athletics – Fred Sitkins, Chair, WMU Athletic Board*  
<http://www.wmich.edu/facultysenate/downloads/1april.athletic.board.pptx>

Fred Sitkins presented a report on the purpose and role of the Athletic Board. It does not make policy, but is primarily an oversight body to assure institutional commitment to the missions of academics, athletics and student well-being. WMU's Division of

Intercollegiate Athletics reports to the Athletic Board, which is comprised of students, faculty and alumni appointed by the University president. The chair of the Athletic Board is the voice of the faculty in dealing with the institution, the MAC (Mid-American Conference); CCHA (Central Collegiate Hockey Association); and the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) in matters concerning student-athletic academic integrity, student-athlete well-being and institutional control of the athletics program.

*Millennial Project – Robert A. Wertkin, Chair, Millennial Project Steering Committee*  
<http://www.wmich.edu/facultysenate/downloads/1april.1st.yr.success.millennial.pptx>

Robert Wertkin and several members from the Millennial Project spoke on behalf of the project. This project was developed out of the observations that the newest generation of students has different expectations with regard to their classes and instructors and many seem to have a more difficult time connecting with teachers. This initiative has concluded its first year of a comprehensive examination of the learning styles and educational needs of the youngest generation of students born around 1985 or later and has generated recommendations on the most effective strategies for helping this generation achieve their educational goals.

*Race and Ethnicity Survey – James Gilchrist, Vice Provost for Academic Operations and Chief Information Officer*

New federal guidelines require WMU to collect race and ethnicity information for all faculty and staff members. This mandatory two question survey is online through goWMU.

*Report on Survey by Committee on Extended University Programs/Online Education – C. Dennis Simpson, Chair*  
[http://www.wmich.edu/facultysenate/downloads/EUP\\_Subcommittee\\_Report\\_March\\_15.pdf](http://www.wmich.edu/facultysenate/downloads/EUP_Subcommittee_Report_March_15.pdf)

Dennis Simpson gave a report on a survey conducted by the Senate Committee on Extended University Programs/Online Education to review the qualitative nature of courses offered at branch campuses and online education. Among the recommendations from the committee are: a need for EUP to continue to improve awareness of its programs and courses, a need for WMU to improve its understanding of the role of online learning in the future of higher education, and increased offerings to improve access to education for a huge audience.

## **PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC CONCERNS**

There were no concerns expressed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Janice Anderson  
Suzanne Davenport  
Faculty Senate Office