

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Minutes of 4 November 2010**

The Faculty Senate met in the Fetzer Center Kirsch Auditorium. There were 58 Senators and substitutes present. **Absent:** T. Bailey, B. Barton, O. Gabor-Peirce, K. Hearit, H. Kooles, P. Krawutschke, B. Liggett, S. Malcolm, R. Manley, M. Mickus, H. Nibert, D. Nisula, J. Oh, P. Parker, R. Rabiej (for J. Ari-Gur), D. Swoboda, S. Ziebarth. **Also present:** Janice Anderson and Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office; Nick Andreadis, Dean, Lee Honors College; Andrea Beach, Director of Faculty Development; Jody Brylinsky, Health, Physical Education and Recreation; Alexander Enyedi, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Dawn Gaymer, Associate Provost for Extended University Programs; Bassam Harik, Vice Provost for Budget and Personnel; W. Jensen, Sociology; Paula Kohler, Associate Vice President for Research; David Reinhold, Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies; Anthony Vizzini, Dean, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Faculty Senate Vice President William Rantz called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. He informed the Senate that Senate President Peter Krawutschke is in route to Macau in the People's Republic of China, where he'll be attending a forum of the International Federation of Translators at the University of Macau.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

The 7 October 2010 minutes were approved as published.

Faculty Senate Executive Board Report

Senate Vice President Rantz reported the Faculty Senate and shared governance were highly visible in WMU's self-study for the Higher Learning Commission and its campus visit. Senate President Krawutschke had several meetings with the HLC review team and the Senate Executive Board also met with a review team member.

Remarks – John Dunn, WMU President

President John Dunn made the following remarks:

- Higher Learning Commission site visit: (1) Special focus was put on WMU having met all federal requirements; we are in full compliance. (2) Areas for WMU to continue to work on are assessment of general education requirements; assessment of graduate programs; diversity in faculty and staff hiring; and revision of the mission statement and goals. (3) The HLC review team complimented the university on strategic planning; high student satisfaction; sustainability and energy conservation; its relationship with communities – seamless engagement; internationalization of the university; cited for military and SEITA scholars programs; and good transparency.

- Michigan Governor-Elect Rick Snyder will be meeting with the university presidents.
- Results of a survey conducted by Mitchell Research comparing data in 2005 and 2010 indicate views of parents of the value of higher education and attaining a college degree have increased.
- Faculty mention: (1) Jaimy Gordon, English, is a finalist for the nation's premier literary accolade, the National Book Award. (2) Van Cooley and Jianping Shen, Educational Leadership, Research, and Technology, received a \$3.5-million grant from the 2010 federal School Leadership Program to collaborate with 12 Michigan high-need school districts to conduct Learning-Centered Leadership Development for practicing and aspiring principals.
- Three well credentialed candidates for the School of Medicine will make public presentations in Kalamazoo within the next few weeks.

Senator Heun inquired if the president had heard discussions regarding closing any Michigan universities. President Dunn didn't believe there was any political interest to do so at this time.

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

Provost Tim Greene made the following remarks:

- The provost just returned from China and Korea for the Confucius Institute.
- The 25 faculty positions in the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan were approved and allocated to the colleges. He asked for help from the deans and department search committees to follow the HLC request for more diversity, including the search committees themselves.
- Graduate College – The committee to look at the college was chaired by Jim Gilchrist. Written recommendations are due in 9 November and will be shared with the Graduate Studies Council and the Faculty Senate Executive Board and posted on the provost's website for discussion. He would like open forums and to conclude discussions by early to mid spring semester.
- Retention rate increased from 72.4% to 76% in one year due to the efforts of many people. There were 34,000 mid-term grades posted, 40% of the undergraduate grades – another record. New software has been used to pinpoint students who received mid-term grades below a C, or missed class so they can be contacted by advisors.
- As part of the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan, a Center for the Humanities was created. Katherine Joslin, English, is the founding director.
- As a sustainability measure, the traditional Blue Book has been replaced by the Green Book which is made from recycled paper.

ACTION ITEMS

2nd Reading of Bylaw Amendment and Vote to Add Transfer of Credit Committee as a Standing Committee of the Senate – William Rantz, Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee

There was a second reading of a proposed amendment to the Bylaws to would make the Transfer of Credit Committee a standing committee of the Senate. Rantz moved to accept the amendment.

Article VII: Committees

Sec. 1. In addition to those committees named in Article VII, Sec. 5, of the constitution, the following shall be standing committees of the Senate: Committee on Extended University Programs, Faculty Retirement Recognition, Professional Concerns, and Library, and Transfer of Credit.

Senator Jellies seconded the motion and the amendment was adopted.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Lee Honors College – Nicholas Andreadis, Dean

Andreadis thanked faculty for their contributions to honors education over the years in teaching courses, serving as mentors, helping with co-curricular activities and study abroad. The honors college was founded at WMU in the academic year 1961-62, the founding dean was Sam Clark, and there were 24 students in the first class. Today there are 1185 students in the honors college, representing each college on campus.

The Lee Honors College is home of the:

- (1) Academically Talented Youth Program with 205 students in the 7th, 8th and 9th grades
- (2) dual enrollment programs with 180 students in 11th and 12th grade. There has been discussion of building a continuum from 7th through 12th grade to continue support of community-based gifted education.
- (3) prestigious scholarships and assists students with applications and essays for such scholarships as the Rhodes Scholarship, Udall Scholarship and Fulbright and those applying to medical schools and law schools.
- (4) Medallion Scholarship – there are currently 70 scholars.

Andreadis' philosophy of honors education is based on a notion of academically ambitious students working with passionate engaged faculty in small intimate settings. There are three cornerstones for honors education: (1) academic excellence, (2) appreciation of the arts, and (3) service.

Constant challenges include course availability and maintaining a 20/1 student/faculty ratio. Approximately 75 general education honors courses are taught each semester. He has input from three faculty committees, on advising, assessment, and curriculum to help maintain a first-rate curriculum. Extra co-curricular program is important to accompany curriculum.

The LHC helps make students distinctive and develop a full portfolio so they can be competitive when applying for graduate education, professional schools, or employment immediately after attaining their undergraduate degree.

He is working on a proposal to create honors faculty, similar to that of graduate faculty. He plans to discuss this with the Faculty Senate Executive Board.

Introduction of Senate Councils and Chairs

Senate Vice President Rantz encouraged faculty participation in the Faculty Senate, noting that shared governance is a thread throughout the university. He introduced the

council chairs to give a brief introduction of themselves and the current focus of their councils:

- Steve Ziebarth, from Mathematics is chair of the Research Policies Council. He was out of town, so Senate Vice President Rantz reported current activities of RPC include: coordinating the 5th annual Research and Creative Activities Day; collaboration with Vice President for Research in (1) conducting yearly review of the state of the research ethics policies and procedures and (2) regarding the Conflict of Interest Policy; and review of the Support for Faculty Scholar Award proposals.
- Alan Rea, Business Information Systems, chair of Academic and Information Technology Council, reported current activities of AITC include: mobile computing; learning management: e-book pilot project with the Bookstore; Turnitin – software is up for renewal, cost rising dramatically. Rea and another AITC member serve on the Educational Technology Strategic Planning Committee.
- Rick Gershon, Communication, chair of Campus Planning and Finance Council, reported routine council activities include looking at university finances and building construction on campus. Current activities of CPFC include: East Campus – bids for new concepts of what might be done; Arcadia West project; and identifying a list of minor projects called “finishing touches” that aren’t expensive but contribute to enhancing the look of the campus, such as creating green space in center of campus around Sangren to replace that lost with the Chemistry building; replacing administration building windows; and adding landscape/sculpture in circular drive of the Health and Human Services Building.
- Louann Bierlein Palmer, Educational Leadership, Research and Technology, chair of Graduate Studies Council, reported GSC’s current focus is graduate curriculum changes; promoting graduate education, including research and teaching awards, working on rubrics and requirements; active engagement in the report on the graduate college; and beginning to look at criteria and processes for graduate assessment.
- Maira Bundza, University Libraries, reference librarian, chair of International Education Council, said:
 - Internationalization is more than international students coming to our campus and our students studying abroad – It involves preparing students to live and work in the global world and conducting international research.
 - WMU is part of the American Council on Education internationalization collaborative of universities that have international programs. WMU completed a two-year self-study lab process.
 - IEC will work on ACE recommendations, prioritize them, and divide them among the council’s four working groups.
 - IEC has a wonderful partner in the Haenicke Institute for Global Education.
- Bruce Ferrin, Marketing, chair of the Undergraduate Studies Council, reported USC serves as the policy recommending and review body for any matter pertaining to undergraduate curriculum at WMU. In that role, USC reviews and suggests modification to new programs or program changes. Key issues emerge from yearly charges given to the council by the Senate Executive Board. In its review of general education, the council will work with the Committee to Oversee General Education to (1) look at how baccalaureate-level writing requirement is assessed and (2) the reconceptualization of general education. Curriculum implications of the president’s sustainability initiative will also be studied.

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC CONCERNS

Captain Carol Dedow, Public Safety, was contacted for a response to an inquiry at the October Senate meeting concerning government vehicles parking in Lot 61 and taking up limited faculty parking areas. Dedow responded the vehicles had been moved and mentioned additional available faculty parking in Lot 72R outside of Schneider Hall.

The director of the Integrated Supply Management Program, which has courses in both business and engineering, inquired about two issues:

- (1) If a late withdrawal policy for WMU students who change majors, comparable to what the university does for transfer students whose courses are accepted as satisfying the area but without their grades transferring, could be developed. Provost Greene and USC Chair Bruce Ferrin suggested this would be something the USC might look at.
- (2) In 2008, the program name was changed and there are still problems with major codes causing problems with registration. The provost asked that any emails or information regarding that be forwarded to him.

A concern was raised regarding hiring faculty and the timing of publishing ads. Provost Greene said a concern of that nature should be directed to the department chair.

An inquiry about the low student response rate to the online student evaluation process was raised. As faculty use student evaluations as feedback, the lack of student responses since the evaluations went online is of concern. Jim Gilchrist suggested this concern be addressed by Eileen Evans, vice provost for institutional effectiveness.

The recent tornado warning and the response to it was brought up. It was reported that in several buildings, there was confusion and it appeared no one was in charge. It was also reported that some professors did not release their classes. More training, information and reconsideration of the protocol for locked classrooms was recommended. Provost Greene and Vice President Rinker spoke to this concern. The provost noted there would be follow up on this.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 9 December, at 5 p.m. in the Fetzer Center. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Janice Anderson, Faculty Senate Office
Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office