

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Minutes of 9 December 2010**

The Faculty Senate met in the Fetzer Center banquet rooms. There were 55 Senators and substitutes present. **Absent:** J. Berkow, J. Dunn, B. Ferrin, O. Gabor-Peirce, P. Ikononov, M. Light, R. MacDonald, R. Manley, H. Nibert, D. Nisula, J. Oh, L. Bierlein Palmer, P. Parker, C. Pavlik, L. Rinker, J. Ruhl, W. Sauck, C.D. Simpson, D. Swoboda, A. Venter (for G. Mezei), S. Ziebarth. **Also present:** Janice Anderson and Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office; Aaron Booth, President, Western Student Association; Andrea Beach, Director of Faculty Development; Barbara Cockrell, Associate Dean, University Libraries; Harold Glasser, Environmental Studies; Bassam Harik, Vice Provost for Budget and Personnel; Carol Hustoles, Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel; W. Jensen, Sociology; Suzie Nagel, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs; Nina Nelson, Chair, Dance; Vivian Steemers, Foreign Languages; Jim Thomas, Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations; Raymond Thompson, Associate Dean, College of Aviation; Anthony Vizzini, Dean, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Cam Vossen, Emergency Management Administrator; Paul Wilson, President, WMU-AAUP.

Faculty Senate President Peter Krawutschke called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

It was moved by Senator Dooley and seconded by Senator Liggett to accept the agenda. The agenda was accepted.

Approval of Minutes

The 4 November 2010 minutes were approved as published.

Faculty Senate Executive Board Report

Senate President Krawutschke reported the following:

- An email will be sent tomorrow announcing the General Election for Senators and representatives-at-large. Ballots for departments needing elections will be mailed in early January. Petitions for representative-at-large positions are available from the Senate Office and are due back in late January.
- President John Dunn was unable to join us tonight as he's in China.
- He commented the professoriate is under attack
 - He mentioned an article from the 24 October 2010 Wall Street Journal, Putting a Price on Professors
 - He asked Senators to tell colleagues shared governance is important

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

Provost Tim Greene made the following remarks:

- President Dunn is in Beijing, China on behalf of the Confucius Institute.

- Articles have been published on Rate Your Professor on the list of the 25 worst faculty in the country with WMU listed as 12th. He commented the methodology used is flawed and has no statistical validity. Our evaluations show that WMU has outstanding faculty.
- \$30 million was expected from the state for Sangren Hall. Without local support, it was not funded. The project will continue on schedule and will be bonded. Most of the expense will be covered through tuition increases.
- As a follow-up to the Higher Learning Commission visit, university strategic planning is moving forward with a 17 member committee, which the provost will chair. The first of the year a draft plan will be ready for review and input. It will be completed by June 30. External input will be sought.
- As a follow-up to a concern at last month's Senate meeting, Cam Vossen, emergency management administrator, and Sue Caulfield, director of academic collective bargaining, will reissue instructions once a semester to instructors of record and staff regarding tornado guidelines.
- Jaimy Gordon, professor of English and winner of the National Book Award for Fiction, will be honored on Monday, 13 December, at 3:30 p.m. in the Richmond Center.
- Final grades are due on Tuesday, 21 December. He encouraged adherence to the deadline, as this particularly impacts graduating students who need this information for their employment at the first of the year.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 2010 Faculty Fee

The 2010 fiscal year ended with \$8,589 in the Senate Faculty Fees budget. Funding from the faculty fees budget enables the Senate to support shared governance through support of Senate, council, and committee meetings. Although our bylaws allow faculty fees to be increased annually, the Senate Executive Board requests the amount for this year's faculty fee remain at \$13 as it has now for nine years. It was moved and seconded to set the Faculty Fees for fiscal year 2011 at \$13. The motion was approved. Faculty fee requests will be mailed shortly and Senators were encouraged to ask their colleagues to support the work of the Senate by contributing this nominal fee.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Observations from My First Two Months – Jim Thomas, Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations

Vice President Thomas previously worked for the University of Michigan. Since arriving on 5 October, he has met with 137 individuals in one-on-one meetings. He inquired about their impressions of development and alumni relations and asked for suggestions on improving the focus of the office and how the office could help them.

Strengths he observed at WMU: an enthusiastic donor base, effective foundation board with phenomenal infrastructure and committees, senior leadership support, and effective donor stewardship and research.

He envisions a program distinctive among national universities and plans to:

- substantially increase funding

- enhance the reputation and image among donors and alumni with service, engagement, congeniality, communications with a united and constituent message, relationship tracking, and professionalism
- improve the donor/alumni experience.

Three components to the future of development are:

- engagement – alumni relations, communications, marketing, and strategic events
- administration – data, research, data tracking
- development – for extreme professional major gift development

WMU has phenomenal student callers and leaders. Great students create great faculty which results in successful development. He plans to improve the donor, alumni and student experience and figure out how to thank them, not with things, but with experiences and relationships.

Questions from senators (*Responses in italics*):

- How will donors to the medical school be acknowledged? *This has not been determined, although it needs to be meaningful and appropriate. Donors vary in their desire to be thanked, and we need to be flexible when considering this.*
- Why are alumni and other donors considered differently? *This is being looked at as to why alumni are in a membership and donors are in a group of supporters. It is an obstacle which is being addressed.*
- Why aren't faculty being asked to participate in fundraising events? *In restructuring, we will include faculty and students in storytelling.*

Tornadoes: The What, Why, and How – Cam Vossen, Emergency Management Administrator

One of the concerns expressed at the last meeting was the response – or in some cases lack of response – to the October tornado warning. Vossen stressed faculty preparedness in knowing what to do in the event of a tornado, such as where the location of the shelter is in your building. At the beginning of the semester, faculty should take a minute to inform students about the location of the shelter. Senators were asked to report back to their colleagues so all faculty are informed about the expectations and their responsibilities during a tornado. Vossen reiterated that safety is the most immediate consideration and stressed the importance of adhering to tornado policies for the safety of faculty and students.

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC CONCERNS

Follow-up on Earlier Concerns

Krawutschke reported on the status of concerns expressed at the November Senate meeting.

- (1) Low response to the online student course evaluations. This was referred to Eileen Evans, Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness. She was unable to attend but sent the following response and will be available to discuss this further at a future Senate meeting.

- The fall 2010 semester was first University-wide implementation. Literature and conferences support increased student responses lie with the relationship between faculty and students.
- Faculty are encouraged to educate students on why completing the evaluations are important. Requesting informal feedback at midterm is very effective.
- Members of the Instructor and Course Evaluation System implementation committee are available to assist faculty. The committee membership and additional information on how faculty can participate in increasing student response rates is online at <http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/ices>

- (2) A department late in getting ads out for faculty hiring was addressed by Provost Greene. The provost was thanked for contacting the department to follow up on this. The provost responded the situation had already been resolved when he called the department.

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

- (3) In 2008 the program name was changed and there are still problems with major codes causing problems with registration. The provost had requested any emails or information regarding that be forwarded to him. The provost reported this has been resolved.
- (4) A proposal for a late withdrawal policy for students changing majors was made, comparable to university policy for transfer students where courses are accepted as satisfying the area without grades transferring. Bruce Ferrin, chair of the Undergraduate Studies Council, has taken the initiative on this and has been in contact with the program director and the registrar. It was discussed at this week's USC meeting and there seems to be interest in this around campus. The USC will continue discussion on this next semester.
- (5) University response to the 26 October tornado warning. In several buildings there was confusion, it appeared no one was in charge and some professors did not release their classes. More training, information and reconsideration of the protocol for locked classrooms was recommended. Cam Vossen gave a presentation on this earlier in the agenda.

New Concerns

- (1) There is a problem as there is no cap on the number of courses students can register for. Director Judith Rypma responded that the Professional Concerns Committee has completed a memorandum of action that caps the number of courses at 24 credit hours. It will be presented to the Senate during the spring 2011 semester.
- (2) A comment was expressed about the bookstore under ordering textbooks for classes. At times it is necessary to change the limit on number of class seats and then there aren't enough textbooks. Vice Provost Keith Hearit responded it was necessary to get book orders in on time to the bookstore, so there will be sufficient books for students.

- (3) Concern was expressed about a steady reduction in the number of contact hours for classes. Provost Greene's initial response was that standard block times are necessary to help students register for courses and to prevent tying up classrooms for classes which overlap.
- (4) Paul Wilson, President, WMU-AAUP, announced the AAUP was holding a third election for the election of its president as there had been ballot tampering in the second election.
- (5) An inquiry was made as to whether graduate courses were included in consideration of standard block times. The senator commented that the length of classes was set by accreditation. Vice Provost Hearit responded the push has been for undergraduate courses, not graduate courses.
- (6) Senate Vice President Bill Rantz supported comments made earlier about the media coverage on CNBC and the Huffington Post of Rate My Professor. Provost Greene noted it is an anonymous popularity contest of questionable validity. One doesn't even need to be a student of a particular class or of the university to go on the site and rate a professor. Senate President Krawutschke expressed concern about the perception of faculty that is being created in the media.

ADJOURNMENT

No January Senate meeting scheduled. The next Senate meeting will be held on Thursday, 3 February 2011 in the Fetzer Center.

The meeting adjourned at 6.48 p.m.

Janice Anderson and Suzanne Davenport
Faculty Senate Office