

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE BOARD
MINUTES OF 18 FEBRUARY 2011**

Members present: Osama Abudayyeh, Van Cooley, John Jellies, Peter Krawutschke, Mary Lagerwey, William Rantz, Judith Rypma and Delores Walcott.
Guest: Fred Sitkins, Chair, WMU Athletic Board. **Also present:** Janice Anderson, Faculty Senate Office.

The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate President Peter Krawutschke at 11:05 a.m.

Athletic Board- Fred Sitkins

Fred Sitkins, chair of the Athletic Board, was invited to discuss the Athletic Board. Its mission is to provide faculty oversight of athletics. Sitkins reported the Athletic Board is very pleased with the academic performance of athletes at WMU.

Sitkins was invited and agreed to present at the 7 April Senate meeting. The following were suggested as topics of interest to faculty:

- What are the GPAs and most common areas of study of athletes at WMU?
- What assistance and support is provided to athletes by the Athletic Board?
- What special accommodations are faculty required to make for college athletes?
- What is the missed class policy? (Clarification of that policy for faculty.)

Action Items

Acceptance of the Agenda

Approval of 21 January and 4 February Executive Board Minutes

Acceptance of the agenda was moved and seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of the 21 January minutes was moved and seconded as amended. Motion carried with one abstention.

Approval of the minutes of 4 February was moved and seconded. Motion carried.

Response to Graduate Studies Council Report and Recommendations on the Graduate College

The Senate Executive Board reviewed GSC's report and recommendations on the Graduate College. While in support of the council's report and recommendations, the Board expressed concerns about its implementation. The Board would also like a role in development of the position description for the dean of the Graduate College. Members requested that GSC Chair Louann Bierlein Palmer be invited to present her council's report at the 10 March Senate meeting. Krawutschke will send a memo to Provost Tim Greene regarding this.

Agenda for 10 March Faculty Senate

In addition to the procedural items, confirmed agenda items were James Gilchrist, vice provost for academic operations and chief information officer, reporting on Faculty Responsibilities for Data Security and the 2nd reading and vote to change the Research Policies Council's membership. It was also suggested to:

- ask the university president if it would be appropriate to address the budget in his remarks
- invite the chair of GSC, Louann Bierlein Palmer, to present the highlights of that council's recent report and recommendations on the Graduate College
- confirm whether Joseph Reish, the dean of University Libraries, wished to present on the proposed archive building.

Acceptance of Nominations for Representatives-at-Large

Nominating petitions were received from the following for representative-at-large.
Jellies moved, seconded by Rypma, that they be declared elected. Motion carried.

- Osama Abudayyeh, Civil and Construction Engineering – 3 year term
- Sisay Asefa, Economics – 3 year term
- Peter Krawutschke, Foreign Languages – 2 year term

Two representative-at-large positions will remain vacant until next year.

Values of WMU for Strategic Planning Committee and Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Session – William Rantz

Senate Vice President Rantz reported Provost Greene had requested the Board provide input to the University Strategic Planning process. In response, members felt it would be most beneficial for the Board to review a final draft of the strategic plan before it was approved by administration and the Board of Trustees. Krawutschke will request the opportunity for the Board to do so, preferably at an informal meeting.

Lee Honors College Proposal to Establish a Faculty Fellows Designation

A proposal from the Lee Honors College to establish a faculty fellows designation was forwarded by the Undergraduate Studies Council. The USC had reviewed and approved this proposal. The Board endorsed the proposal but felt as it was an "in house" document, it did not need to go to full Senate for approval. Instead, Senate President Krawutschke was asked to announce the proposal and the Board's endorsement of it during his remarks at the 10 March Senate meeting.

The Board asked that a final version of the Faculty Fellows Designation policy (without the background information that appeared on the proposal of 2 Feb 2011) be provided from the Lee Honors College.

Other

Krawutschke reported the provost had inquired if the Senate would like to co-sponsor a Webinar on "Academic Freedom: Policy & Legal Considerations." Upon review of materials, it was determined the issues to be addressed in the Webinar seemed more union related than academic so the Board declined to participate in co-sponsorship. As the topics related more to contractual issues, the Board suggested the provost might discuss this event with the AAUP.

Discussion/Information Items

Use of Textbooks at WMU Written by WMU Faculty

The provost has requested the Senate look into the policy that each public university is to develop policies for minimizing the cost of textbooks and course materials used while maintaining quality of education and academic freedom. The Board requested this be forwarded to the Senate's Professional Concerns Committee.

Updates – Peter Krawutschke

A senator contacted Krawutschke requesting to continue the discussion of differential tuition at the next Senate meeting. As the WMU Board of Trustees is expected to approve differential tuition at its 24 March meeting, further discussion was not seen as appropriate at this time.

Krawutschke reported to the Board on his meetings his individual meetings with President Dunn and Provost Greene.

Council and Committee Reports from Liaisons

Academic and Information Technology Council – Walcott said this council has been discussing issues with Turnitin, security issues concerning social security numbers, and ELearning.

Campus Planning and Finance Council – Jellies reported a joint meeting of several councils may be arranged to discuss continued faculty dissatisfaction with the Instructor and Course Evaluation System (ICES).

Minutes

1. Academic and Information Technology Council, 23 November 2010
2. Campus Planning and Finance Council, 18 January
3. Graduate Studies Council, 27 January
4. Undergraduate Studies Council, 8 February
5. Research Policies Council, 10 February
6. Transfer of Credit Committee, 11 February

Correspondence Received

1. Agenda, Transfer of Credit Committee, 28 January
2. Agenda, Committee to Oversee General Education, 10 February
3. Agenda, Research Policies Council, 10 February
4. Agenda, Transfer of Credit Committee, 11 February
5. Agenda, Campus Planning and Finance Council, 15 February
6. Agenda, Professional Concerns Committee, 16 February
7. Agenda, International Education Council, 17 February
8. Agenda, Academic and Information Technology Council, 22 February

Correspondence Sent

1. Letters, 15 February, to Board of Trustees members in recognition of their service to WMU: Dana Debel - newly appointment; William J. Martin – appointment has ended; and Kenneth V. Miller – reappointed.

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

Janice Anderson
Faculty Senate Office