

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Minutes of 6 October 2011

The Faculty Senate met in the Fetzer Center Kirsch Auditorium. There were 59 Senators and substitutes present. **Absent:** B. Applegate, D. Areaux, B. Barton, O. Gabor-Peirce, R. Gershon, M. L. Light, R. MacDonald, S. Malcolm, K. McDonnell, J. Oh, L. Bierlein Palmer, K. Smith, D. Swoboda, A. Venter. **Also present:** Janice Anderson and Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office; Nick Andreadis, Dean, Lee Honors College; Andrea Beach, Director of Faculty Development; Brynne Belinger, Office of Institutional Effectiveness; Maira Bundza, Libraries; Betty Dennis and Andrew Holmes, Extended University Programs; Alexander Enyedi, Dean, and Susan Stapleton, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; David Guth, Blindness and Low Vision Studies; Carol Hustoles, Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel; Walter Jensen, Sociology; Erin Kaplin, President, Western Student Association; Ed Kluk and Tom Wolf, Office of Information Technology; Dan Litynski, Vice President for Research; Suzie Nagel, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs; Dave Reinhold, Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies; Joseph Reish, Dean, Libraries; Cheryl Roland, Executive Director, University Relations; Anthony Vizzini, Dean, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

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

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

The 5 May 2011 minutes were approved as published.

*Faculty Senate Executive Board Report – Peter Krawutschke,
Faculty Senate President*

Faculty Senate President Peter Krawutschke gave the following report:

1. For those new to the Senate, Krawutschke introduced himself as a professor from Foreign Languages, serving his second and final year as Faculty Senate president. Senate Executive Board members were also introduced:
 - Senate Vice President William Rantz, Aviation
 - Osama Abudayyeh, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences
 - Van Cooley, Educational Leadership, Research and Technology
 - Past Senate President Mary Lagerwey, Nursing
 - Judith Rypma, English
 - Delores Walcott, Sindecuse Counseling Services
2. Several new senators who joined since the last meeting were introduced:
 - Jan Bedrosian, Speech Pathology and Audiology
 - Don Nelson, Computer Science

- Christine Browning, Mathematics (substitute for John Petrovic for the academic year)
 - Brooks Applegate, Research Policies Council chair
 - Jan Van Der Kley, Vice President for Business and Finance
3. Senators and attendees were encouraged to ask questions and participate in discussions this year, noting administrators in attendance are willing to address questions and hear suggestions from faculty.
 4. He invited General Counsel Carol Hustoles to the podium to give her yearly report on requests for access to faculty email accounts. She indicated two requests had been received and offers to assist in the access had been extended, but not yet accepted. In addition, the Office of Information Technology received three other requests for access, which have been approved, but not yet acted upon.
 5. The Senate Executive Board is creating an Ad Hoc Committee on the Curriculum Review Process to be chaired by Senate Vice President William Rantz. The committee will pursue how the process can be expedited.
 6. A number of Senate councils will discuss the medical school in their 2011-12 charges as well as program review.
 7. Provost Tim Greene will discuss the University Strategic Plan later in the meeting.

Remarks – John Dunn, WMU President

President Dunn commented on the following:

- He welcomed senators and extended his appreciation for all the good work they do in service to the Faculty Senate and the University.
- Enrollment is up overall in the minority population, non-resident students, transfer students, and most significantly, online students. Numbers are down in doctoral students and true new freshmen. The increase in students helped us make the budget and the spring semester enrollment is expected to be fine.
- The legislature has been discussing a bill that would allow community colleges to offer four-year degrees in select areas. This has long-term policy implications. He is disappointed with proposed legislation regarding changes to partner benefits and formation of a state governing board for universities.
- This year there is the addition of the “Corral” at sporting events which provides entertainment for students, family and friends. Also, a real horse, owned by a freshman student, will be participating in home ceremonies.
- An architectural firm S/L/A/M has been chosen for the medical school and is looking at sites. Bylaws for the medical school are being worked on.
- He’s pleased with the University Strategic Plan.
- He thanked those who participate in support of the United Way Campaign.

Remarks by Provost Tim Greene

Provost Greene gave the following remarks:

- There are 37 new faculty members on campus this year that are going through a year-long orientation.
- The fourth class of leadership academic is underway.
- The Office of Information Technology is continuing to provide security briefings around campus.

- Mid-term grading is approaching and the provost stressed how important receipt of a mid-term grade is especially for freshmen and transfer students as it helps them in being successful.

ACTION ITEM

*MOA-11/02, Syllabus Template
Undergraduate and Graduate Studies Councils –
Bruce Ferrin, Chair, Undergraduate Studies Council*

Bruce Ferrin presented the memorandum of action and provided background information.

- In June 2010 the chair of the Committee to Oversee General Education, Jose Brandao, came to the Undergraduate Studies Council with a proposal to create a syllabus template for general education courses. After completion of its review of syllabi for courses in the general education cycle for re-approval, COGE noted a wide variation in the content of the syllabi.
- As the Higher Learning Commission strongly recommends that faculty communicate course expectations through syllabi, it was decided a syllabus template for all undergraduate and graduate courses, not just general education, be recommended. The USC was very careful in its discussions to stay away from content or mode of assessment.
- In April and May 2011 both the Undergraduate and Graduate Studies councils reviewed, revised and approved the syllabus template being presented tonight.

Senator Rypma moved, supported by Senator Addison, approval of MOA-11/02 Syllabus Template.

Ferrin indicated that USC saw this as a recommendation that could be incorporated into the e-mail sent each semester to faculty regarding syllabi. After questions and discussion, the motion carried.

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

United Way Campaign – Joseph Reish, Chair, Campus United Way Campaign

Joe Reish, dean of University Libraries and chair of this year's Campus United Way Campaign, noted this year's campaign goal is \$300,000. He advocated for more participation this year. Three pillars of the United Way campaign are Education, Income, and Health. The 2011 drive ends November 12.

Elearning Transition – Andrea Beach, Director of Faculty Development

- Blackboard Vista system is being phased out, so the University looked at other platforms and chose Desire2Learn for elearning. The new system offers tools and capabilities with an easier interface for instructors and students. A multi-unit enterprise is underway to see that the University is ready for the transition.

- Course shells for spring 2012 are being created in the new Elearning and will be up in mid-October.
- Blackboard Vista will not be available after fall 2011 for students or for active teaching. Faculty will be able to access and migrate materials from the old system until 21 December 2012.
- Only course content can be migrated to the new system. No student content will be migrated. Support is available to assist with migration of courses.

*University Strategic Plan – Tim Greene,
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Provost Greene noted that developing the University Strategic Plan was a four-step process. The 17 member committee gathered information, prepared and re-wrote numerous drafts and is now completing receipt of public input before preparing the final draft.

There was discussion and questions. One question from Senator Mingus was why a three-year plan? President Dunn chose that timeframe so our strategic plan would be revisited more frequently and kept relevant to the University's fast-paced changing environment. Other discussion focused on evaluation and assessment measures and how this relates to the three pillars of the plan. Senator Utz suggested that the first four goals, which were more general in nature, should have specifics added to them, which would help with accountability.

Provost Greene also mentioned the upcoming program review. Discussions have taken place with a subset of the deans and David Reinhold, associate provost for assessment and undergraduate studies, as to how the process would work. The Faculty Senate will be involved and criteria for program review are being developed.

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC CONCERNS

No new concerns were expressed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. The next Senate meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 10 November, in the Fetzer Center.

Janice Anderson and Suzanne Davenport
Faculty Senate Office