

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Minutes of 1 March 2012

The Faculty Senate met in the Fetzer Center Banquet Rooms. There were 48 Senators and substitutes present. **Absent:** D. Anderson, B. Applegate, J. Ari-Gur, B. Barton, J. Berkow, K. Bondarchuk, C. Browning (for J. Petrovic), S. Falan, K. Harvey, L. Heun, C.R. Krishna-Swamy, G. Langworthy, R. MacDonald, R. Manley, M. Mickus, J. Oh, J. Ruhl, W. Sauck, K. Smith, D. Swoboda, R. Utz, G. Veeck, D. Walcott, B. Wagner, J. Wiebold. **Also present:** Haluk Aktan, Chair, Civil and Construction Engineering; Janice Anderson and Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office; Nick Andreadis, Dean, Lee Honors College; Andrea Beach, Director of Faculty Development; LaTasha Chaffin, Chair, Graduate Student Advisory Committee; Barbara Cockrell, Associate Dean, Libraries; Betty Dennis, Associate Dean, Extended University Programs; Alexander Enyedi, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Gene Freudenburg, Interim Dean, Graduate College; David Huffman, Chemistry; Carol Hustoles, Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel; Walter Jensen, Sociology; David Reinhold, Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies; Cheryl Roland, Executive Director, University Relations; Blair Szymczyna, Chemistry; 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; Western Student Association – Erin Kaplan, President, Jasmine Nelson, Vice President, and Nicolette Ledbury.

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

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

It was moved and seconded to accept the agenda. Time permitting, a brief informational item was proposed on ScholarWorks. The agenda was accepted as amended.

Approval of Minutes

The 2 February 2012 minutes were approved as published.

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

Faculty Senate President Peter Krawutschke gave the following report:

- Past President John Jellies has sent his good will to the Board and the Senate with regrets that he will miss tonight's meeting. Jellies underwent a coronary bypass last week and we wish him well in his recovery.
- The 2012 General Election has concluded.
 - William Rantz, Aviation, was elected Senate president and Dennis Simpson, Physician Assistant, was elected Senate vice president.
 - Van Cooley, College of Education and Human Development, will serve as representative-at-large.

- The Senators elected from 19 departments will be recognized at the May Senate meeting when their terms begin.
- Krawutschke attended a reception for the Dennis Archer Foundation Scholarship. Archer is a member of the Board of Trustees.

Remarks – John Dunn, WMU President

President Dunn commented on the following:

- The news from Lansing is that it's all about metrics. The formula for undergraduate education is based on growth in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) fields. At WMU, that is already high, so there hasn't been growth. The Business Leaders of Michigan, representing the largest Michigan corporations, are looking at other metrics, and it is not all about the Big Three anymore. The BLM is looking at the Carnegie Classifications.
- Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System (MPSERS) – From the funding we receive from the state, we turn back around and remit money back for MPSERS. This issue is under review by the state.
- As of 1 July, the Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies will join the School of Medicine, using this facility and the former MPI building downtown.
- We continue to need the assistance of faculty and staff for recruitment and retention, as it is all about yield.
- Archives – we will be breaking ground this summer for a new facility on Oakland Drive near the Noble Lodge.
- Sangren Hall will open in fall 2012. In the interim, there will be added inconvenience on central campus while roads and parking are reconfigured and a pedestrian walkway and water feature are added.
- Bioarchaeologist Jacqueline Eng was featured on a National Geographic special, "Cave People of the Himalaya," February 15.
- Eric Bowman, a senior trombone major, has been named a finalist in two competitions – one for jazz and one for classical.

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

Provost Greene commented on the following:

- Searches
 - Jody Brylinsky has been named associate provost for institutional effectiveness.
 - A search committee has been formed for the associate provost for the Haenicke Institute for Global Education, chaired by Nick Andreadis, dean, Lee Honors College.
 - Two candidates have been announced for the dean of the Graduate College – Sue Stapleton and Gene Freudenburg. Public presentations will be held the week of March 12. Chairing the search committee is Dan Litynski, vice president for research.
 - A search committee is being formed for the dean of the College of Education and Human Development, chaired by Alex Enyedi, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.
 - Carla Koretsky has been named associate dean of Lee Honors College.

- The Higher Learning Commission site visit will be March 19 and 20. There will be an open meeting for faculty from 4 to 5 p.m. in March 19. The review team will determine how open WMU has been in creating the Strategic Plan.

ACTION ITEM
Instructor and Course Evaluation System Task Force

Senate Executive Board Director Judith Rypma addressed the Instructor and Course Evaluation System, noting there have been numerous problems associated with the electronic ICES forms for student evaluations. No one seems to be entirely happy with the low response rates, and the importance of this tool for promotions and awards makes it critical that we continue to look for ways to not only increase participation, but perhaps even to find an alternative. While we are aware that this falls under the auspices of the AAUP, the Executive Board of the Senate feels strongly that the critical nature of this problem as it affects all faculty makes it urgent that we address the problem as soon as possible. Therefore, in the spirit of shared governance, we propose to offer Faculty Senate assistance to the AAUP and the Administration with the following motion: We move that the Faculty Senate initiate the establishment of a liaison task force with AAUP and the Administration in order to facilitate either an alternative to the current electronic ICES form or the establishment of procedures to improve the process. There was a second. Executive Board Director Osama Abudayyeh proposed an amendment to change “initiate the establishment of” to “establish”. The amended motion was passed with 1 no vote and 2 abstentions.

WMU School of Medicine Task Force

Senate Executive Board Director Mary Lagerwey addressed the Senate regarding a WMU School of Medicine Task Force, noting a need for regular communication. We move that the Faculty Senate initiate the establishment of a liaison task force with the School of Medicine to facilitate ongoing collaboration in education, research, service to WMU and the community, and shared governance. Director Osama Abudayyeh proposed an amendment to change “initiate the establishment of” to “establish”. The motion was seconded and approved as amended.

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEM
Demonstration of Performance Tasks

Andrea Beach, Director of Faculty Development, and David Reinhold, Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies, discussed an initiative to train faculty to use Performance Tasks, which are the basis for the testing approach for the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA). At WMU, the CLA is used to measure gains in critical thinking, writing, and reasoning. This initiative will start with a summer institute for faculty.

Reinhold provided a demonstration of Performance Tasks. He said this is the fourth year WMU has used the Collegiate Learning Assessment exam. Employers want to hire graduates with qualifications in communication skills, critical thinking, and the ability to work in groups. This is an example of a tool which can be used by instructors in the classroom with the potential to develop those skills in our students.

Campus-Wide Writing Review

David Reinhold, discussed Campus-Wide Writing Review. This is an initiative to try to improve writing. Consultants will be coming to campus in the fall from the Council of Writing Program Administrators. They will assist with developing a self-study of first year writing, writing services, use of resources, and baccalaureate-level writing at WMU.

Lee Honors College and Faculty Fellows

Nick Andreadis, Dean of the Lee Honors College, provided an update on the Lee Honors College and Faculty Fellows.

- Currently there are 48 faculty fellows, with 6 to 8 added each year. Well over 400 students will join the LHC in the fall. The retention rate for the college is 89%, compared to 91% University-wide.
- There are now 200 students in the Academically Talented Youth Program.
- In the most recent Medallion Scholarship competition, 788 students competed for 20 scholarships.
- The LHC building addition should be completed 31 May. It will include a small outdoor amphitheatre, two additional classrooms, a multi-purpose lounge, a small student work center and upgraded technology and video conferencing.

ScholarWorks – Gene Freudenburg, Interim Dean, Graduate College

Gene Freudenburg briefly discussed the ScholarWorks repository as it relates to submission of theses and dissertations. A process will be piloted in June to submit theses.

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC CONCERNS

Senator George Boston, Libraries, announced a URL change for the A-Z List of Journals, Magazines and Newspapers at WMU, managed at the University Libraries.

Senator Holly Nibert, Spanish, had a follow-up question for David Reinhold regarding the writing process in the fall. He indicated additional information would be available from the consultant’s in the fall closer to their visit.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The next Senate meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 5 April, in the Fetzer Center.

Janice Anderson and Suzanne Davenport
Faculty Senate Office