

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**  
**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**  
**Minutes of 5 April 2012**

The Faculty Senate met in the Fetzer Center Banquet Rooms. There were 56 Senators and substitutes present. **Absent:** B. Applegate, D. Areaux, J. Ari-Gur, B. Barton, K. Bondarchuk, E. Bradburn, R. Gershon, J. Gilchrist, K. Harvey, R. MacDonald, R. Manley, K. McDonnell, D. Nelson, J. Oh, L. Bierlein Palmer, J. Ruhl, D. Swoboda. **Also present:** Nick Andreadis, Dean, Lee Honors College; Andrea Beach, Director of Faculty Development; Jody Brylinsky, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness; Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office; Alex Enyedi, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; David Huffman, Chemistry; Walter Jensen, Sociology; Erin Kaplan, Immediate Past President, Western Student Association, Dan Litynski, Vice President for Research; Dave Reinhold, Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies; Joe Reish, Dean, University Libraries; Fred Sitkins, Chair, Athletic Board; Sue Stapleton, Chemistry; Raymond Thompson, Associate Dean, College of Aviation; Tom Wolf, Chief Technology Officer, Office of Information Technology.

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. The agenda was accepted.

*Approval of Minutes*

The 1 March 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:

- At the 1 March meeting, the Senate approved establishment of the Instructor and Course Evaluation System Task Force. He has since learned the Provost's Office is forming a committee to address ICES that will consist of three members each from the Senate, the AAUP, and the administration. To avoid parallel committee work, Krawutschke will move to disestablish the Senate's task force at the next meeting.
- He anticipated receipt of information from the administration regarding academic program review, but that has not yet been received.
- Krawutschke reminded colleagues that during a tornado warning it is the responsibility of faculty to move students to the designated shelter.
- Krawutschke invited the Western Student Association immediate past president, Erin Kaplan, to introduce a resolution to mandate mid-term grading. The resolution was for information only.
- He was privileged to attend a recent ROTC ceremony on campus for a fallen soldier from WMU.

- He had the opportunity to meet with Petr Gandalovic, Ambassador of the Czech Republic, who visited Kalamazoo.

*Remarks – John Dunn, WMU President*

President Dunn commented on the following:

- Lansing –
  - The governor, the Senate, and the House have each proposed a plan for funding higher education, which are under review.
  - Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System (MPSERS) – The cost of this plan to the seven participating universities is out of their hands and under review by the state.
  - There is discussion on autism and its impact on health care. WMU has very strong programs in this area and related disorders.
  - The Seita Program, or foster youth initiative, has caught the attention of the governor.
  - There is not a lot of discussion on capital projects and if there will be any, they will be small projects.
- Sangren construction is going incredibly well, on schedule, and it will open in August. Until then, there will be additional fencing and inconvenience while the pedestrian walkway is completed.
- He encouraged a future report to the Faculty Senate on additional housing goals from Diane Anderson, Vice President for Student Affairs.
- Commencement is just around the corner and he is aware of the added pressures on campus, one sign of this is that the counseling center is at capacity.
- We continue to need the assistance of faculty and staff for recruitment and retention of students.
- He acknowledged Erin Kaplan for her work as president of the Western Student Association. WMU has been fortunate to continue to have a high quality student leadership. He congratulated the incoming WSA president, Sean Nicholl, and vice president, Collin Mays.
- He noted the YWCA lifetime achievement award was awarded to Kathy Beauregard, director of intercollegiate athletics.
- He thanked Peter Krawutschke for his work as Faculty Senate President and appreciated his availability for engaging in dialogue and conversation.

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

Provost Greene commented on the following:

- Searches
  - He introduced Jody Brylinsky, the new associate provost for institutional effectiveness.
  - He will soon announce his selection for dean of the Graduate College.
  - The search committees for the associate provost for the Haenicke Institute for Global Education and for the dean of the College of Education and Human Development will be recommending job descriptions next week. The provost is seeking nominations from the University community for internal and external candidates, so that large and diverse pools of candidates can be formed.

- After the Higher Learning Commission site visit on 19 and 20 March, the team was very pleased with the creation of the Strategic Plan. A draft report will be coming in about three weeks. He thanked Margaret Merrion, dean of the College of Fine Arts, and the committee for their work in preparing for this visit.
- With commencement nearing and grades due in on Tuesday, he reminded faculty to not forget to include research hours and independent studies.
- The next Fridays with Friends will be held on Tuesday when grades are in.

### INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

*University Common Read – Miranda Howard, University Libraries*  
[http://web.library.wmich.edu/DIGI/Henrietta\\_Lacks.pptx](http://web.library.wmich.edu/DIGI/Henrietta_Lacks.pptx)

As chair of the University Common Read, Miranda Howard provided information on this initiative, noting it has been a part of the First-Year Experience. The provost encouraged formation of a committee to develop this into a University-wide effort directed at faculty, staff and administration. The learning outcomes directed at students include: developing a sense of community, honing skills in critical thinking and scientific discovery, improving writing skills, and learning to articulate responsible academic and social behaviors. She encouraged faculty to get involved by reading the book, encouraging students to read the book, attending Common Read events, and participating in panel discussions.

*Oversight of Intercollegiate Athletics at WMU – Fred Sitkins, Chair,*  
*WMU Athletic Board*  
[http://www.wmich.edu/facultysenate/downloads/Athletic\\_Board\\_report\\_2012.pptx](http://www.wmich.edu/facultysenate/downloads/Athletic_Board_report_2012.pptx)

Fred Sitkins presented his annual report on the state of athletics at WMU. The Athletic Board is an oversight committee to assure that student athlete welfare is foremost. Western is doing well in (1) the academic progress rate, which is made up of composite measurements used by the NCAA to insure that athletes meet academic standards, (2) the graduation success rate, and (3) federal graduation rate. WMU's current number of student athletes is 377 and its average fall 2011 G.P.A. for men and women athletes was 3.15. Each April, the oversight committee prepares a report for the Athletic Board in preparation for the peer review conducted by the NCAA every ten years.

*Sangren Hall and Sangren Plaza – Richard Gershon, Chair,*  
*Campus Planning and Finance Council*  
[http://www.wmich.edu/facultysenate/downloads/CPFC\\_report\\_2012.ppt](http://www.wmich.edu/facultysenate/downloads/CPFC_report_2012.ppt)

Rick Gershon reported on the council's purpose and mission, and discussed its recent activities. He noted the premise that the general look and feel of the university campus contributes directly to the vision and culture of what Western stands for as an institution of higher learning. Gershon indicated that in order to accomplish major planning projects, there are several stakeholders who come together with a larger view of what's in the best interest of the campus. He discussed on-campus housing and the addition of the Western View Apartments and added that first year students living on campus have higher G.P.A.s and are more connected than those living off-campus. The main focus of his presentation was on Sangren Hall, and he discussed

features of the new building. Creating a new plaza and water feature area in front of the new building will bring green space to the center of campus.

### PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC CONCERNS

There were no concerns expressed.

### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m. The next Senate meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 17 May, in the Fetzer Center.

Suzanne Davenport  
 Faculty Senate Office