

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Minutes of 6 November 2014**

The Faculty Senate met in Rooms 208-210 of the Bernhard Center. There were 58 Senators and substitutes present. **Absent:** R. Aravamuthan, K. Baldner, J. Berkow, C. Biggs, J. Butterfield, P. Ciccantell, K. Corder, C. Crotchett, N. Eckerson, C. Emerson, P. Farber, D. Karowe, M. Konate, G. Mathews, A. Rea, D. Schuster, M. Villarreal, B. Wagner, M. Wheeler, G. Whitehurst. **Also present:** Jody Brylinsky, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness; Dustin Byrd, Assistant to R. Siebert; Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office; David Evans, Producer/Director, Office of Information Technology; David Huffman, Chemistry; Mark Hurwitz, Political Science and Special Assistant to the Provost; Bradley Morgan, Director, Media Services, OIT; David Reinhold, Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies; Susan Stapleton, Dean, and Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Associate Dean, Graduate College; Abby Wallace, President, and Connor Smith, Vice President, Western Student Association; Tom Wolf, Chief Technology Officer, OIT.

Faculty Senate President C. Dennis Simpson called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. He encouraged all to sign in and reminded Senators attendance is monitored.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

A motion was made and supported to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of 2 October 2014 Senate Meeting

The 2 October minutes were approved as published.

*Faculty Senate Executive Board Report – C. Dennis Simpson,
Faculty Senate President*

Senate President Simpson's report included the following:

- He welcomed the president and vice president of the Western Student Association, Abby Wallace and Connor Smith.
- He announced there are two new Senators:
 - Tarun Gupta, from Industrial and Entrepreneurial Engineering and Engineering Management, and
 - Geoff Whitehurst, Chair, Extended University Programs Council
- The administration approved MOA-14/03, 2014 Revised Policy on Centers and Institutes. He thanked Executive Board Director Suzan Ayers for her work in chairing the committee that revised this policy.
- He called on William Rantz, Past Senate President, who informed the Senate the appraisal of the president will be conducted at a time to allow input to the Board of Trustees prior to its annual review of the president.

- The Ad Hoc Honorary Degree Committee, chaired by William Rantz, held its first meeting and is looking at revising the existing policy.
- The Senate has established an Ad Hoc Committee on Plagiarism which will be meeting soon.
- The Ad Hoc Committee on General Education has been active for the last 1½ years, looking at revising the existing general education program.
- He thanked Suzanne Davenport for her extra effort in the Senate Office as the only current staff member, while the process of filling the position of Faculty Senate Administrator is underway.

Remarks by John Dunn, WMU President

President Dunn's remarks included the following:

- He regretted missing the October meeting, as he enjoys Senate meetings for conversation and informative discussions.
- WMU's ranking in U.S. News and World Report has gone up.
- The *Washington Monthly* ranked WMU #90 on its list of "best bang for the buck" schools; the only Michigan school on the list.
- Enrollment headcount is down 1.56% and student credit hour production is down 1.1%. The profile of entering students shows an average high school GPA of 3.41, with ACT composite at 22.8 and going up.
- Michigan students comprise 85% of the student body, with 10% from other states and 5% international. The number of international students has risen 10% since 2007.
- The new School of Medicine has an outstanding entering class. There were 3700 applicants for 54 slots.
- He is pleased with the initiative on the law school.
- The tobacco free initiative is going well.
- Future directions:
 - Efforts on general education review is in everyone's best interests and he is confident the review will be thoughtful and constructive.
 - The Academic Program Review and Planning is underway.
 - Building construction is in progress for a new residence hall and the alumni center in East Hall is progressing well.
 - WMU won an award for a video on climate leadership and received awards for its efforts in diversity.
- He provided student and faculty accolades.

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

Provost Greene's remarks included the following:

- For fall 2015, we are up 3% in applications and 18% in admissions.
- Academic Affairs is focusing on three major themes this year:
 - Academic Program Review and Planning
 - General Education review – a three-year process; year one is discussion and conversation, year two is move to make changes, and year three is implementation.

- Strategic enrollment management
 - Rather than being driven by enrollment, a significant revenue source, and it managing us, we are looking to manage ourselves. One way to do this is by using a forecasting planning model, which has been developed to look at enrollment, retention and attrition in different areas, such as graduate or international students, and show fluctuations five years out so we can plan accordingly.
 - Kalamazoo Valley Community College is the number one feeder for WMU, and an agreement has been signed with Macomb Community College for a smooth transition to WMU.
- Two searches are underway: 1) dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and 2) director of admissions.

In response to an inquiry by Senator Dooley regarding the declining number of high school graduates in Michigan and our efforts to recruit beyond the state, Provost Greene responded that we have two full-time recruiters in Chicago, there has been a growth in international students, and more efforts are underway for veterans and the Michigan national guard.

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Academic Program Review and Planning Update – Jody Brylinsky, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness

Jody Brylinsky gave an update on the Academic Program Review and Planning process, noting the first part of Phase I was nearing complete with 50-75% finished. The oversight committee is looking at policies and beta testing recommendations. Chairs submit department self-studies by 17 December. More than 40 faculty volunteered for the Observation Committee and members were selected. It will have orientation in November, training in December and begin work on 15 January. Public viewing of program review information will be available after spring break. Then Phase II, which is planning, begins with about a month for the deans and a month for the provost before coming to the Senate. The next brown bag lunches regarding the APR&P will be on 7 and 17 November.

Report on the National Survey of Student Engagement and Faculty Survey of Student Engagement – David Reinhold, Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies

David Reinhold informed Senators that WMU participates in both the NSSE and FSSE on a regular basis for assessment purposes. Freshmen and seniors are asked questions related to their curricular, co-curricular and social experiences. WMU is benchmarked against other institutions and last participated in spring 2013. He shared a snapshot comparison with peer institutions.

WMU / Cooley Affiliation – Mark Hurwitz, Professor of Political Science and Special Assistant to the Provost

Mark Hurwitz, who serves as the liaison between WMU and Cooley, described the affiliation with Cooley, noting it began 1½ years ago and it is the Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School. He coordinates program development with respect to the Cooley affiliation, works with chairs, deans, the Faculty Senate, faculty and others at WMU and Cooley to accomplish integration of the affiliation agreement. There is potential for new opportunities. A short-term goal is to establish a presence on campus. An accelerated program is being developed for a legal studies minor. Some Cooley courses will be held on the WMU campus next fall. Joint committees are being established in curriculum and operations. Cooley has established a Bronco scholarship for WMU students. Future joint degree programs are being considered.

*Thomas Wolf, Chief Technology Officer, Office of Information Technology
The OIT – Faculty Technology Partnership*

Thomas Wolf talked about faculty technology partnerships and opportunities for collaboration. He cited a recent example of a partnership of Extended University Programs, the Office of Faculty Development, and the Office of Information Technology regarding teaching and learning resources. He mentioned how the project team wanted to use the Layar App, an augmented reality platform, to market this new service, which he demonstrated at the October meeting. A video was then played that demonstrated examples of faculty collaboration and Wolf encouraged faculty to take advantage of this service.

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC CONCERNS

Senator Heun inquired why the license of some of the software runs out at the beginning of the year, when preparation for classes is underway. Thomas Wolf responded that he was aware of this problem in June, that it was a communication issue between the colleges and the Office of Information Technology, and it has been resolved.

ADJOURNMENT

There is a special Board of Trustees meeting on November 7.

The Senate will meet next on December 4 in this same location.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office