

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
Minutes of 5 March 2015**

The Faculty Senate met in Rooms 208-209 of the Bernhard Center. There were 55 Senators and substitutes present.

**Members Present:** J. Ruhl, C. Crotchett, D. Karowe, I. Baker, B. Young, A. Venter, J. Oh, R. Gershon, R. Siebert, S. Burns, W. Moncrief, W. Huang, D. Johnson, P. Ikonomov, S. Slawinski, N. Eckerson, G. Veeck, J. Thakurta, H. Dooley, S. Ayers, T. Gupta, S. Carlson, J. Mueller, B. Ferrin, D. Pence, W. Liou, B. Johnson, E. Phillips, C. Chase, K. Baldner, J. K. Corder, C. Spates, U. Wagle, G. Mathews, W. DeCamp, S. Rao, G. Flamme, L. Heun, J. Berkow, O. Abudayyeh, R. Aravamuthan, S. Asefa, K. Fogarty, C. D. Simpson, J. Jellies, W. Rantz, B. Wagner, D. Walcott, P. Krawutschke, J. Dunn (via Skype), T. Greene, M. Kritzman, D. Anderson, J. Gilchirst, C. Tremblay

**Members Absent:** J. Eng, G. Langworthy, R. Emerson, A. Rea, J. Nelson, L. Bierlein Palmer, L. Minnick, C.R. Krishna-Swamy, M. Knoate, M. Villarreal, J. Petrovic, K. Smith, C. Biggs, D. Areaus, D. Schuster, M. Braun, P. Farber, O. Gabor-Peirce

**Guests:** Tom Wolf, Office of Information Technology; Scott Merlow, Campus Police Chief; Sue Stapleton, Dean, Graduate College; Bob Wertkin, Director, Interdisciplinary Health Programs; Dave Reinhold, Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies; Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Associate Dean, Graduate College; Alicia VanEe, Graduate College; Jan Gabel-Goes, Faculty Development; Abby Wallace, President, and Connor Smith, Vice President, Western Student Association; Patti VanWalbeck, Associate Vice President for Business and Finance; Michael Nassaney, Anthropology; Keith Hearit, Interim Dean, College of Art and Sciences; Wolfgang Schlör, Associate Provost, Haenicke Institute for Global Education; Dan Litynski, Vice President for Research; Jody Brylinsky, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness; Jan Hahn, Interdisciplinary Health Programs; Mary L. Anderson, Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology; Fred Sitkins, Chair, Athletic Board; Alyssa Davison, public relations major; Cheryl Roland, Executive Director, University Relations; Kahler Schulman, Office of the President; Allan Poole, Office of Information Technology; Lisa DeChano-Cook, Geography; Kathy Beauregard, Director, and Jeff Stone, Athletics

**Staff:** S. Brodasky, S. Davenport

Faculty Senate President C. Dennis Simpson called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. He encouraged everyone to sign-in and noted that attendance is monitored. It was asked that everyone identify themselves prior to making a motion or comment.

### PROCEDURAL ITEMS

#### *Acceptance of the Agenda*

After the agenda was sent out an item was added on upcoming general education presentations.

A motion was made by T. Gupta, supported by L. Heun, to accept the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

*Approval of Minutes of 5 February 2015 Senate Meeting*  
The minutes were approved as published.

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

Senate President Simpson's report included the following:

- Welcome senators and guests.
- At the last meeting MOA-04/05 was presented by the Undergraduate Studies Council and approved by the Senate to create definitions for Experiential Learning, Service-Learning, Co-Curricular Learning, and Volunteerism for the *Undergraduate Catalog*. It was then reviewed by the Graduate Studies Council at its February meeting and approved to also include these definitions in the *Graduate Catalog*. This MOA will now move forward to the administration in recommendation from both councils.
- The Ad Hoc Centers and Institutes Committee has been established and held its first meeting. It will create criteria for annual and 5-year reports, align these reports with strategic planning, and reclassify internal centers that serve as offices or clinics. Bill Cobern will be chairing that committee.

#### *Remarks by John Dunn, WMU President via Skype*

President Dunn's remarks included the following:

- Recently he presented to the Michigan joint higher education committee that hosted a long list of university presidents. It was acknowledged that the governor is returning prior budget cuts. President Dunn was able to question the committee about the 2.8% tuition cap noting that institutions that have been careful and conservative with increases remain below the mean value thus imposing yet another cap continues to impede those schools especially since other schools have increased at the maximum level over and over again. Additionally the proposed GSA and WSA fees would have to be included in the 2.8% cap. He asked the committee for lenience.
- During that visit with the legislature President Dunn was able to open discussion regarding work in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics and express his concern that other research areas were being diminished due to the focus on STEM fields.
- At the Presidents Council meeting WMU was acknowledged for the good work being done on the sexual harassment policy. Staff and faculty are encouraged to continue to provide input.
- The Governor talked about bullying at the university level but did not have specific examples and asked that we be watchful and inclusive.
- WMU's Career and Student Employment Services data on tracking graduates are very encouraging and President Dunn suggested that everyone review the website. He specifically noted how well Philosophy graduates are doing and used that as an example of how WMU has served the students well, and that it is important not to sway them away from their passion of certain study areas.
- Aon Hewit has been on campus this past week working with deans and directors to classify positions. The new system will reduced the range of placements. It is anticipated to be implemented by July 2015.

- WMU is the recipient of a Green Seal for cleaning practices. Pete Strazdas and the student staff who gathered and submitted the materials should be thanked. Only four universities, including WMU, have earned the Green Seal.

*Remarks by Tim Greene, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*  
Provost Greene's remarks included the following:

- He is in process of putting together two dean searches for the libraries and arts and sciences. Search firms will be used for each. It is expected that the committees will start their work after spring break.
- The Medallion Scholars competition has wrapped up. There were 500 entries that were narrowed down to 40 semi-finalists that produced 26 offers for 23 positions.
- The yield events are in full swing. The President participated in the Chicago event. Several other events are still scheduled. Departments should be making phone calls to confirm the WMU invites.
- Graduate student admitants are being finalized, and the numbers look good.

### INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

*Dr. Paul Gaston's General Education Presentations – David Reinhold, Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies*

The Ad Hoc Committee on General Education is sponsoring a guest speaker, Dr. Paul Gaston, from Kent State University. Gaston is an expert on revitalizing general education programs and will be at WMU on March 19. The review of WMU's general education program was announced at last month's academic forum. Feedback is currently being collected from all faculty, part-time instructors, teaching assistants and students that are instructors of record.

*Safety Report – Scott Merlo, WMU Police Chief*

Chief Merlo gave an overview of his employment history, having been a Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety officer, and commander of an operational unit. His priorities at WMU are prevention, preparedness, protection, training, and customer service. He is developing a strategic plan to assign officers as liaisons to specific dorms. He expressed his view of employee development and staff engagement as key priorities to achieving operational success. It was questioned what he is doing to reduce crime on campus. Chief Merlo confirmed that the WMU crime statistics have remained the same in 2012, 2013, and 2014, noting that crime in West Michigan as a whole has declined. The two reported armed robberies on campus were specific acts toward those specific people and not random acts of violence. A question was raised if there is collaboration between Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, and the WMU police departments, to which Chief Merlo explained the weekly collaboration meetings between WMU, KVCC, K-College, KDPS, and Portage police commanders.

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

Associate Provost Brylinsky introduced Mary L. Anderson, Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, and chair of the APR&P Observation Committee. Anderson's remarks included the following:

- Thanked the committee members in attendance.
- The committee members were instructed to give meaningful feedback. Everyone reviewed the reports individually then they met in teams over two weekends to review the reports as a group. They were provided four tiers for grading each program and those were: exceeds expectations, meets expectations, needs development, or insufficient response. Now that the reviews are completed the results will be posted to Sharepoint for comment by the deans and provost.
- When asked it was acknowledged that the college deans will review the undergraduate and graduate programs, however the Graduate College dean may review some of the graduate programs as well.
- There were over 430 programs reviewed and each reviewer had 20-40 programs to review and spent approximately an hour on each report individually then as part of the team they spent two weekends in group review.
- When asked it was confirmed that the criteria used for the four grading tiers that were established by the faculty committee have been published on the Office of Institutional Effectiveness website throughout the process.

*Bronco Profile – Richard Gershon, Faculty Senate Vice President, Alyssa Davison, Public Relations Major*

Gershon stated that the Faculty Senate Executive Board is launching a new segment at Senate meetings titled "Bronco Profiles." These profiles are intended to highlight and recognize some of the unique work and activities performed by WMU students. Tonight is the first in this series.

During the past several months, I've had the privilege of working on several committees involved with the WMU alumni center. One such committee is the storytelling committee – tasked with looking at WMU history and tradition. One of the powerful symbols of WMU is the Bronco. The WMU Bronco has an interesting history. We adopted the Bronco mascot at the same time that Waldo Stadium was under construction in the year 1939. Before that, we were the Hilltoppers. The story goes that a contest was held to rename the mascot. There were several submissions put forward, all vying for the ten dollar prize. Coach and faculty member John Gill won with the selection of Broncos, which according to tradition is an untamed horse of the plains and was intended to describe Western's die-hard spirit on the athletic playing field.

Fast forward, 75 plus years later, and the Bronco name has become an integral part of the culture of this University, from athletics to marketing and student recruitment. Which leads me to our featured student speaker, Alyssa Davison, a Public Relations major in the School of Communication who happens to be an equestrian rider. But not just any rider, she is the rider who leads the WMU football team on to the field before each home game.

Over the year, I've had different students in my class, football players, volleyball players, Gold Company singers and musicians, but never someone who rides Triumph onto the field. One day Alyssa apologized to me for missing class because she had to meet with the vet. That's when I came to know a little more about Alyssa. Some weeks later, after we had just completed the remodeling of the walkway at Miller plaza, I was making my way toward a pep rally being held for the football team, it was Friday evening, and there by the Chemistry building was Alyssa Davison on Triumph coming in the opposite direction. It was a great moment. How many people get to ride a horse in the middle of campus? Bicycles, skateboards, golf carts, maybe...but a WMU Bronco, that's as good as it gets.

I think professor John Gill would have been very pleased...Fellow Senators, Alyssa Davison.

Davison is 22 years old and will be graduating in May. She grew up in Mattawan and got her first horse at age 11. Triumph is a 21 year old retired police horse. It takes approximately five hours to prep Triumph for his entrance, from giving him a bath and warming him up, but he loves it all. Davison and Triumph ride into Waldo stadium in front of the football team at all home games. She noted that horses have historically represented pride, and there is nothing that a horse won't do for his human and nothing she won't do for her horse. She is very thankful for this opportunity at WMU.

*Athletic Board Report – Fred Sitkins, Chair*

Sitkins reported that WMU is a division one school. He noted that often a schools athletics are the most visual part of the university. He acknowledged members of the committee that were in attendance. WMU has a measurable Academic Progress Rate above 930. The GPAs of athletic students are outstanding. NCAA progress rate are not public yet, but are well above the threshold, typically women outdo the men's sports. There are standing committees of the athletic board which are part of peer review, which took place in 2006 and will again in 2016. The Mid-American Conference looks at the athletes academic record as well as their on the field successes. WMU's men's soccer is classified as third in the nation.

*Resolution Presentation – C. Dennis Simpson, Faculty Senate President*

Simpson read the following resolution, which was then presented to Fred Sitkins:

*Fred Sitkins became Chair of the Western Michigan University athletic advisory board on July 1, 2006. He was originally appointed to the board on May 19, 2004 for a three year term. In his capacity as Chair, Professor Sitkins served as the faculty athletic representative for the University to the Mid-American Conference, Central Collegiate Hockey Association, and National Collegiate Athletic Association. He has worked diligently to promote a strong collegial relationship between the faculty of this University and the Department of Athletics. Professor Sitkins has been a strong advocate for the student athlete on campus. WHEREAS, Fred Sitkins has led the Western Michigan University athletic advisory board with great integrity to ensure the best possible academic success for student athletes on campus; and WHEREAS, Fred Sitkins concludes his term as*

*athletic advisory board chair, we extend our appreciation to him for his leadership and service to Western Michigan University. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Executive Board of the Faculty Senate of Western Michigan University on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March 2015, does recognize, congratulate and commend Fred Sitkins for his outstanding performance towards the enhancement of the total University community.*

**PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC CONCERNS**

No concerns were expressed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Senate will meet next on 2 April 2015, in Bernhard Center, room 208-209. The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Office