

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Minutes of 1 October 2015**

The Faculty Senate met in Rooms 208-209 of the Bernhard Center. There were 66 Senators and substitutes present.

Members Present: O. Abudayyeh, D. Anderson, R. Aravamathan, D. Areaux, S. Asefa, S. Ayers, I. Baker, Lisa Baker (for C. Spates), K. Baldner, C. Biggs, A. Brogowicz, S. Burns, S. Carlson, C. Chase, Suhashni Datta-Sandhu (for K. Corder), H. Dooley, J. Dunn, N. Eckerson, K. Ehrhardt, G. Flamme, B. Geier, R. Gershon, J. Gilchrist, T. Greene, J. Hahn, L. Heun, W. Huang, David Huffman (for A. Venter), P. Ikonomov, A. Isea, J. Jellies, D. Johnson, J. Kapenga, D. Karowe, M. Konate, T. Koshmanova, P. Krawutschke, C.R. Krishna-Swamy, M. Kritzman, G. Langworthy, W. Liou, Michelle Machicek (for J. Eng), G. Mathews, M. Mingus, L. Minnick, W. Moncrief, D. Nofsinger, J. Oh, D. Pence, D. Peterson, J. Petrovic, E. Phillips, Carlos Pimentel (for P. Blickle), K. Prewitt, W. Rantz, R. Siebert, C. D. Simpson, S. Slawinski, J. Smith, J. Thakurta, C. Tremblay, J. Van Der Kley, G. Veeck, B. Wagner, R. Wall Emerson, B. Young

Members Absent: J. Butterfield, P. Ciccantell, C. Crotchett, A. Curtis, B. Ferrin, K. Fogarty, T. Gupta, D. Hains, J. Mueller, A. Rea, J. Ruhl, D. Schuster, U. Wagle, D. Walcott, G. Whitehurst

Guests: Todd Barkman, Biological Sciences; Jody Brylinsky, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness; Keith Hearit, Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Carla Koretsky, Dean, Lee Honors College; Ming Li, Dean, College of Education and Human Development; David Reinhold, Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies; Cheryl Roland, Executive Director, University Relations; Wolfgang Schloer, Associate Provost, Haenicke Institute for Global Education; Connor Smith, President, and Thye Fischman, Vice President, Western Student Association; Susan Stapleton, Dean, and Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Associate Dean, Graduate College; Alicia Van Ee, guest of Rudolf Siebert; Tom Wolf, Chief Technology Officer, Office of Information Technology.

Staff: S. Brodasky, S. Davenport

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

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

A motion was made by Petrovic, supported by Heun, to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of 23 April 2015 Senate Meeting

Without objection, 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:

- In May the Executive Board elected a new director, Matthew Mingus, who served previously as a departmental senator.
- Emeriti Representatives: by changes in the Faculty Senate constitution and bylaws there are now three senators: Andy Brogowicz, Peter Krawutschke, and David Peterson
- Remembrance of former WMU Faculty Senate President Dr. Milton Greenberg.
- The Faculty Senate Library Committee has been reinstated and will be meeting soon. John Saillant will be chair.
- The newly formed Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Civility Committee has been charged to develop a general, overarching statement on civil professional interactions expected of WMU faculty, administration, and staff.
- The Campus Planning and Finance Council was presented with a review of major projects on campus by David Dakin, campus planning. Major projects include completion of the Kanley Chapel tower, current work on Heritage Hall scheduled to open at homecoming and breaking ground on the new valley dining hall facility.
- A subcommittee of the Campus Planning and Finance Council has been created to assess incentive-based budget models at WMU.
- The Graduate Studies Council have identified subcommittees to address each of the council's five charges focused on policies and practices related to graduate: 1) education, 2) faculty and, 3) students.
- The Professional Concerns Committee is working to clarify hardship withdrawal policies and procedures.
- Later this fall, the Ad Hoc Committee on General Education will make its recommendations to the Faculty Senate on revisions to the WMU General Education program; the proposal will include a self-study that provides a detailed assessment of our current program as well as a review of other campus' efforts.
- The Committee to Oversee General Education is currently creating rubrics that will be used to assess the courses that seek approval as general education courses.
- Two Memoranda Of Action were approved by administration:
 - MOA-15/05 Revised General Principles of Curriculum Change Policy
 - MOA-15/06 Military Credit for General Education Area VIII: Health and Well-Being – revised catalog language.
- Simpson will be taking a short leave for a medical concern in December.
- Plea on curriculum proposals coming to councils and committees incomplete. Asking each senator to ask for complete review to ensure all required items are included prior to be forwarded.
- Recognized the third faculty member to ever attain 50 years of service, Rudolf Siebert of Comparative Religion.
- Recognition of faculty involvement in the Academic Program Review and Planning process. The faculty developed the processes and served on the review committees. The Faculty Senate Executive Board is currently

involved in the process, as approved by the Faculty Senate and WMU's administration, of applying the Indications and Contraindications, which will be used to evaluate programs that have been recommended for elimination. Those results will be reported to the provost by November 1.

Remarks by John Dunn, WMU President

President Dunn's remarks included the following:

- President Dunn asked for a moment of silence to honor the 13 dead at Oregon Community College.
- Exciting Opening to the Academic Year:
 - Michigan State University football game gratitude to staff for the excellent organization and accommodation surrounding the event. All responses have been very positive.
 - Homecoming October 23-25
- Facilities:
 - New residential facilities opened on time.
 - New valley dining center will open in a year.
 - Grand Opening of Heritage Hall October 23-25
- Honoring and Remembering President Elson Floyd:
 - Floyd Hall will be dedicated on October 16. The engineering building will be dedicated followed by a reception in Dalton.
- Enrollment:
 - Fall enrollment is 23,556 students, a 1.5% drop from last year.
 - Applications were up but did not yield anticipated numbers.
 - Slight increase in first year undergraduate students. Quality measures are good with 22.8 ACT scores, and GPA 3.39 average.
 - Highest freshmen retention rate in several years. Retention of each student level is increasing. Freshmen to sophomore is 79.3% which is the highest in 17 years.
 - Slight increase in international students. Diversity measures increased.
 - Increase in Ph.D. students even though overall graduate students are down.
 - The difference between Pell Grant eligible and non-eligible is better than the national average.
 - Reviewing strategies on enrollment management. Analyzing data and practices carefully.
- Board of Trustees meeting on October 6 will be held at the Grand Rapids Beltline campus.
- Meeting with the governor on October 7 at Grand Valley State University.
- A transition committee has been formed to move the University Strategic Plan forward.
- The fall Academic Convocation is tomorrow at 2 p.m. in Dalton where a number of awards will be presented along with the state of the university address.
- Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System Refund: there was a press release today regarding MPSERS retirement contributions. It was discovered seven universities have been overcharged, which was

confirmed by two separate audit firms. The refund will be \$24.2 million. It is planned to be invested to generate on-going funding for future MPSERS contributions

- The Lt Governor Brian Calley was on campus for the Michigan Autism Conference and for the ribbon cutting on the new Center for Autism. He stated that WMU is the best in this field within Michigan and probably anywhere in the world. Due to his personal experience with an autistic child this was a meaningful compliment.
- Faculty and student accolades:
 - WMU sensor and flexible printing experts Margaret Joyce and Massoud Atashbar, engineering, are participating in a national manufacturing innovation initiative.
 - Iliana Rocha, Ph.D. student, English, had a book of poetry published by the University of Pittsburgh Press after winning the Donald Hall Prize for Poetry. Faculty members William Olsen and Nancy Eimers were recognized for mentoring this student.

Todd Barkman, Campus Planning and Finance Council member, remarked that WMU was named in the US News and World Report of top colleges in the country as being tied in 187th place along with seven other schools while Central Michigan University was ranked at 194. He questioned what is being done to assure WMU does not slip in ranking. President Dunn noted that another university moved up seven positions in that ranking but it is well known that they are currently struggling. He gave explanation of a six year delay in that study due to student graduation rates and how that affects those standings. CMU has been in that upper tier for only the last two years. WMU has a very good Institutional Research staff but he acknowledged there may be statistics WMU is not tracking as well as we could be.

Greg Veeck, Geography, stated that he recently attended a human trafficking session and then was appalled to find a booth sponsored by a local strip club at Bronco Bash. President was unaware of this and asked Connor Smith, president of Western Student Association to investigate.

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

Provost Greene's remarks included the following:

- Dean of Libraries Search:
 - Four candidates will be making presentations on campus over the next two weeks
 - Mildred Jackson, University of Alabama
 - Brad Eden, Valparaiso University
 - Lynn Baird, University of Idaho
 - Julie Garrison, Grand Valley State University
 - Acknowledged Sue Stapleton as chair of search committee and the committee members.
- Dean of College of Arts and Sciences Search:
 - Large pool of candidates with 60 plus applicants.
 - The search committee is anticipating selection of candidates for airport interviews by next week.

- The airport interviews will be held in two weeks.
- On campus interviews are planned for November 9-16.
- WMU Cooley Law School:
 - Three course offerings on WMU's campus this spring.
 - No classes at WMU this fall.
 - Will be on campus for recruiting.
 - There will eventually be the opportunity for a minor in College of Arts and Sciences and Haworth College of Business.
- The Board of Trustees Meeting on October 6:
 - Will be held at the Beltline campus in Grand Rapids.
 - Beltline has recently been renovated.
 - The meeting will be streaming on WMU's website.
- Enrollment
 - Fall enrollment is down more than expected with 23,556 students.
 - Retention is high at 79.3%
 - FTIAC students are down by 17.
 - Transfer students are down 64 or down 3.5%
 - The Lee Honors College enrollment is the largest ever at 1,756 students with 401 being new students.
 - Doctoral students are up at 919 or up 2.6%
 - Master students are down at 3,499 or down 4.8%
- Lead topics expected for this academic year:
 - General Education planning led by Dave Reinhold
 - Academic Affairs budgeting models led by the Faculty Senate CPFC subcommittee.
 - Academic Program Review and Planning is now in the planning and implementation phase.
 - WMU Signature program planning.
 - Enrollment, enrollment, and enrollment.

Gary Mathews, Social Work, questioned WMU's relationship with Cooley Law School. Greene explained the affiliation agreement which has formed the WMU Cooley Law School (a requirement of the Higher Learning Commission which can be found at <http://www.wmich.edu/news/2014/08/18003>). The affiliation allows for each to have their own board of directors, with financial separation. Mr. Ken Miller is an alumnus of both institutions and holds a seat on each board. Cooley will rent space on WMU's campus and WMU will rent space on Cooley's campus. Additionally the provost provided details on a grant from the Department of Justice which awarded \$450 thousand to research on people in this region who have been incarcerated improperly. The grant was developed by co-principle investigators from both WMU and Cooley.

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Academic Program Review and Planning – Tim Greene, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Provost Greene referred to a presentation in 2006 by a previous provost that caused trepidation regarding program review. He noted that it is critical that the provost and criteria be fully transparent, and fully vetted by faculty, and meet the stated intended goals for continuous quality improvement. We have completed the review of 474 programs, all with faculty, chairs, deans, and provost input and are now at the point of Faculty Senate indications and contraindications. He acknowledged Associate Provost Jody Brylinsky for leading this process. Greene described multiple summary findings which can be reviewed in his presentation slides (linked below). 267 or 56% of programs were recommended for Continuous Quality Improvement; 135 or 28% for Growth, 42 or 9% for Remediation, 18 or 4% for Program Restructuring and 12 or 3% for Elimination. The next phase of the process is planning which is intended to utilize program review for the purpose of integrated strategic planning. A comprehensive review will occur again in 2020. Greene thanked all faculty for participation in the process which generated great data that will be used for planning. [Click here to view the Provost's presentation](#)

Keith Hearit, Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, commented about assessment being program specific to which Greene noted that secondary education programs, majors, and minors need to be assessed based on success.

Carla Chase, Occupational Therapy, noted that at WMU "assessment" refers to student learning outcomes and asked if that is what the provost is referring to. She noted that the University Assessment Steering Committee has decided to ask departments for more information on their specific assessment plans in relation to programs assessing what their students should know upon completion of a degree and how is that measured plus how are changes to the program from that data implemented. Associate Provost Dave Reinhold replied that HLC defines "assessment" as assessment of student learning which is WMU's definition as well. Such assessments should feed into program review.

Pavel Ikonov, chair of Academic and Information Technology Council, asked for examples of best practices. Greene stated that those programs which are identified as doing anything specific as the best on campus will be asked to share those items with the campus community.

University Strategic Planning – Jody Brylinsky, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness

Associate Provost Brylinsky reported that we are at the end of the three-year process and it is time to revise to an updated five-year plan. A Transition Team has been convened to revise the plan over the next six months. Details of the timeline and process can be found at: <http://www.wmich.edu/strategic/transition>

Lisa Minnick, English, asked how faculty can be involved in the Transition Team. Brylinsky noted that the Transition Team is intentionally being kept small and has already been established. Faculty are encouraged to voice their input to their colleagues or members of the Faculty Senate Committee on University Strategic

Planning. John Jellies clarified that CUSP has provided feedback after reviewing the annual report and will have a representative on the Transition Team, thus it is a point of input as is AAUP.

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC CONCERNS

Kent Baldner, Philosophy, questioned how senators are elected to the Executive Board. Simpson explained that the process is detailed in the constitution and bylaws. Senators are elected annually and the officers, president and vice president, are elected every other year. At the annual meeting following the election of new officers there is a general election of directors (i.e. board members). In the event of a vacancy of a director it is filled by appointment by the president with the approval of the Executive Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The Senate will meet next on 5 November 2015, in Bernhard Center, room 208-209. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Sue Brodasky and Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office