

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
Minutes of 3 March 2016**

The Faculty Senate met in Rooms 208-209 of the Bernhard Center. There were 58 Senators and substitutes present.

**Members Present:** O. Abudayyeh, D. Anderson, R. Aravamuthan, S. Asefa, Laura Atkins (for K. Baldner), S. Ayers, R. Beronja, P. Blickle, S. Burns, S. Carlson, C. Chase, P. Ciccantell, K. Corder, A. Curtis, Lisa DeChano-Cook (for G. Veeck), H. Dooley, J. Dunn, N. Eckerson, K. Ehrhardt, J. Eng, B. Ferrin, D. Foskey, R. Gershon, J. Gilchrist, T. Greene, T. Gupta, L. Heun, W. Huang, P. Ikonomov, A. Isea, J. Jellies, D. Johnson, T. Koshmanova, P. Krawutschke, M. Kritzman, G. Langworthy, D. Lepisto, L. Minnick, W. Moncrief, D. Pence, D. Peterson, J. Petrovic, W. Rantz, A. Rea, D. Rudge, J. Ruhl, D. Schuster, R. Siebert, C. D. Simpson, S. Slawinski, J. Smith, J. Thakurta, A. Venter, B. Wagner, D. Walcott, R. Wall Emerson, B. Young

**Members Absent:** D. Areaux, C. Biggs, A. Brogowicz, J. Butterfield, C. Crotchett, G. Flamme, K. Fogarty, B. Geier, J. Hahn, D. Hains, J. Kapenga, M. Konate, C.R. Krishna-Swamy, W. Liou, G. Mathews, M. Mingus, D. Nofsinger, J. Oh, E. Phillips, K. Prewitt, R. Spates, C. Tremblay, J. Van Der Kley, U. Wagle, G. Whitehurst

**Guests:** Todd Barkman, Biological Sciences; Jody Brylinsky, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness; Susan Fritz, Part Time Instructors; Walter Jensen; Paula Kohler, Associate Vice President for Research; Amy Kuchta, Big Brothers Big Sisters; Dan Litynski, Vice President for Research; Suzie Nagel, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs; Kristin Putney, College of Health and Human Services/Unified Clinics; Cheryl Roland, Executive Director of University Relations; John Saillant, Chair, Library Committee; Connor Smith, President, and Thye Fischman, Vice President, Western Student Association; Susan Stapleton, Dean, and Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Associate Dean, Graduate College; Tom Wolf, Chief Technology Officer, Office of Information Technology Members of the Ad Hoc Civility Committee: Robert Wertkin, Chair, Nicole Allbee, Jane Baas, Doreen Brinson, Lori Gray, Keith Hearit, Nancy Mansberger, Nathifa Sligh Members of the Ad Hoc General Education Committee: Dan Jacobson, Co-Chair, Eli Collins-Brown, Duane Hampton, Sarah Hill, Molly Lynde-Recchia, David Paul, Staci Perryman-Clark, David Reinhold, Carol Weideman

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

Faculty Senate President C. Dennis Simpson called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

*Acceptance of the Agenda*

A motion was made by Gupta, supported by Pence, to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

*Approval of Minutes of 4 February 2016 Senate Meeting*

Without objection, the minutes of the 4 February meeting were approved as published.

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

Senate President Simpson's report included the following:

- General Election Results: President-Elect, Suzan Ayers, Human Performance and Health Education and Vice President-Elect, Bill Rantz, Aviation. They will begin their terms at the second half of the May 12 meeting.
- Recently the Senate approved three Memoranda of Action which will be forwarded to the Administration for review: 1) the universal definition of plagiarism; 2) setting the strategies to enhance global engagement experience for students; 3) transfer students and a 60 credit hour minimum.
- A call for nominations for positions on Faculty Senate Councils and Committees has been sent to the faculty, with a request to contact the Faculty Senate office if interested.
- The Senate Library Committee has, after being dormant for two years, been called back into action with John Saillant, English and History as chair. We expect MOA's to be coming forth.
- The International Education Council has started working with the Ad Hoc Committee on General Education and the WMU Signature Steering Committee to expand the inclusion of global learning across the curriculum.
- The Ad Hoc Civility Committee has completed its statement on civility and will present it tonight.
- The Committee to Oversee General Education continues to review courses proposed for General Education and is beginning preparations for reviewing all courses that have proficiency 2 approval during the 2016-17 academic year.
- The Graduate Studies Council has been busy reviewing graduate curriculum proposals and the council also will be bringing forward tonight an MOA regarding the minimum credits required in certificate programs and for second masters programs.
- The Ad Hoc Committee on General Education, after two and a half years of intensive study, will be bringing forth an MOA tonight. This is the first revision of this foundational block of student education at WMU in 30 years.
- The Senate, conjointly with the Office of the President, will be holding the Presidential Scholars Convocation on March 29. If you can attend, you will be meeting the top undergraduate student scholars of the University's academic programs.
- The Senate, as it is charged, will be conducting the appraisals of the president and provost in March and April. The Senate has adjusted its timeline for this so as to make certain the results are to the president, provost, and the Board of Trustees in a timely manner.
- Thank you to Western Student Association President, Connor Smith, who graduates with honors in one month with two majors and two minors.

*Remarks by John Dunn, WMU President*

President Dunn's remarks included the following:

- Reflections on the horrific events of February 20-21: each of us has been made painfully aware of just how quickly events can turn and a community like ours can be placed on the growing list of communities victimized by mass shootings. What happened February 20 touched each of us and changed our world view in one way or another. As the days unfolded after the event, we learned that the victims included two alumnae, Mary Lou Nye and Mary Jo Nye. Another victim who was critically wounded is 14-year-old Abigail Kopf. She is the daughter of one of our students, Eugene Kopf, a senior in physics. I could not be more proud of the way the Department of Physics faculty and staff has reached out and is supporting the Kopf family during these difficult days. A moment of silence to honor those who were victims and to reflect on the way our community can come together to recover and move forward was observed. As you know, I sent a message to the University community that we need a better method of communication. There was a University forum that was well attended and very helpful. I have asked Tom Edmonds, Finance and Commercial Law and former sheriff to lead a small committee to help us address communication strategies as we move forward.
- Governor's Budget: there is an expected increase of 4.4% with a cap on tuition at 4.8%. Inclement weather prevented my testimony before the joint education committee last week. The Governor met with the presidents and reiterated his support for the proposal. Senator Schuitmaker is also supportive. The major issue will be with the House leadership. We remain optimistic about Capital Outlay Request, but WMU is not currently on the list.
- Facility Updates: there will be fencing around McCracken Hall for abatement work. The long-term goal is to remove the structure but it is very expensive. Dining is moving forward and is on schedule.
- Medical School: the Liaison Committee on Medical Education was here last week. I am pleased to share that the review went very well. Similar to most accrediting bodies, the team is not at liberty to provide definitive comments, but we are quite pleased with the review and anticipate a committee endorsement in June.
- Enrollment:
  - Medallion Competition was outstanding and extremely well attended.
  - Multicultural Leadership Competition was also a full house.
  - Events in Oak Brook, Ill and Troy, MI were very well attended.
  - Retention continues to be a focus.
- Spring Recess: with Spirit Day being celebrated tomorrow and spring recess next week, our attention is turning to reconnecting with Bronco alumni around the nation. Next week, we'll be in Florida holding alumni events in Ft. Lauderdale, St. Petersburg, Venice and Naples. If you are traveling in any of those areas, you are invited to join in. There is nothing our alumni like more than to meet and hear from faculty about what life is like on campus. Just check the MyWMU.com events page online to get

the details about days, times and locations. After spring break, we'll also be holding alumni events in San Francisco, Houston and Dallas. There are upcoming events slated for Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Detroit and Chicago as well.

- Flexible Hybrid Electronics: late last summer we announced that our University would play a critical part in a new multi-billion federal manufacturing initiative. Margaret Joyce and Masood Atashbar of our College of Engineering and Applied Sciences will apply WMU's internationally known work in the field of flexible printed electronics and the design and fabrication of sensors to the new national consortium. NextFlex, America's Flexible Hybrid Electronics Manufacturing Institute, officially announced its founding members on Monday in Monterey, CA. WMU is among them, of course, and is the only Michigan school among the 30 corporate and academic members. This initiative puts us on the ground floor of designing products and producing materials that can be molded into anything from clothing to the plating of ships and aircraft. Flexible Hybrid Electronics will be used on products in such fields as the automotive industry, communications, consumer electronics, medical devices, health care, transportation, performance monitoring and agriculture. The global market in flexible hybrid electronics, now at nearly \$13 billion, is expected to top \$77 billion by 2025.
- Alaska Tax Work: also of note is the work of Dr. Fritz Allhoff a faculty member in philosophy. He has been leading a team of accounting students not only to locations off the grid, but off the road as well. Allhoff and his four-student entourage spent eight days visiting four villages in rural Alaska helping citizens prepare their taxes. This is the second year he has led a WMU delegation, in partnership with the Haworth College of Business and through a program supported by the IRS, an Anchorage-based nonprofit and several tribal associations. The team helped villagers file some 400 returns, and the trip was complete with cultural experiences our students will never forget.

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

- Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Search: the second round of airport interviews have been conducted and references are being checked. On campus presentations will be held the week of March 21, but the schedule has yet to be finalized.
- Associate Provost for Enrollment Management Search: the airport interviews will be held on April 5 and 6 with on campus presentations at the end of April.
- University Strategic Plan: there were 31 feedback forums held with 500 people attending. The Transition Team will provide the final plan to the Board of Trustees on March 23.
- Academic Affairs Strategic Plan: will be revised using the same process as the University Strategic Plan. The committee will be convened in the next three weeks. A draft will be anticipated in early fall.
- Email Migration: The migration will not begin prior to March 28, even though the original announcement stated March 14 but it will be

completed prior to the end of spring semester. Be sure to conduct the pre-migration check list available on the website.

- Waldo Library: will be closed on the Monday of spring break week for the placement of cooler equipment on the roof of the building.

Todd Barkman, Biological Sciences, questioned the downward trend in the anthropology minor and how it is being addressed. Keith Hearit, interim dean, College of Arts and Science, explained that the unit is facing staffing challenges, but the college has a plan in place to meet the instruction demands. There is a commitment on behalf of the college to continue anthropology.

### ACTION ITEMS

Simpson noted that the Senate constitution requires MOAs to be held for 30 days past the approval prior to it being submitted to the administration in order to allow for written objection from a senator. However, that 30 day hold may be asked to be waived by vote of the Senate.

#### *Memorandum of Action-16/01: Revise Credit Requirements for Certificate Programs and Second Master's Degrees in the Graduate Catalog – Amy Curtis, Chair, Graduate Studies Council*

Curtis provided a description of the changes being recommended.

A motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Asefa, to approve MOA-16/01 as presented. Motion carried.

#### *Memorandum of Action-16/02: Revised Faculty Research and Creative Activities Awards Guideline C6 – Paul Ciccantell, Chair, Research Policies Council and Paula Kohler, Associate Vice President for Research*

Ciccantell presented the recommendations.

- Dooley expressed the concerns of History faculty member Sally Hadden, such that the MOA makes it sound as if prestigious grants are awarded to individuals and not to the University. Grants like the Guggenheim and the National Humanities Center full-year fellowship and the ACLS grants are given only to individuals and may not, by the terms, be administered by a university. Excluding those grants from what counts as an “externally funded grant” severely compromises the ability of humanities and arts faculty to be awarded a FRACAA. Rudge noted that is the very concern that the MOA is addressing. They are all in agreement.
- Jellies endorsed the changes but questioned the amount based on language regarding NSF grants. Kohler will follow up with Jellies because it may be a concern specific to biology.
- Walcott questioned if grants could be combined to total \$10 thousand, or would each grant have to be submitted separately. Kohler stated they may be combined.

A motion was made by Ciccantell, seconded by Rudge, to approve MOA-16/02 as presented. With two opposed, the motion carried.

#### *Memorandum of Action-16/07: Revised Research Misconduct Policy – Paul Ciccantell, Chair, Research Policies Council and Paula Kohler, Associate Vice President for Research*

Ciccantell presented the recommendations.

A motion was made by Ciccantell, seconded by Rudge, to approve MOA-16/07 as presented. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ciccantell, and seconded, to waive the 30 day hold. With one opposed and one abstention, the motion carried.

#### *Memorandum of Action-16/05: Statement on Civility – Robert Wertkin, Chair, Ad Hoc Civility Committee*

Gershon acknowledged the work of the ad hoc committee. Simpson noted that the MOA is coming before the Senate without comment from the Executive Board.

- Minnick asked how to reconcile the policy with academic freedom, as part of the statement advocates free expression and part of the statement advocates for caution. Wertkin explained that the committee was mindful to draft a statement so that WMU is a citadel for academic freedom and free speech, while holding a subjective line regarding people expressing hatred, since we as a community have a responsibility to act. Additionally, WMU already has policies in place regarding sanctions.
- Chase questioned if the power differential between students and faculty is addressed. Mansberger stated that the statement does not address behavior, there are other policies for that, such as the anti-bullying policy. Chase noted that faculty are cautious because students feel faculty have an agenda and wondered how this policy addresses that. Mansberger explained that is a separate issue, and that the statement expresses an ideal. Wertkin noted that the power differential is wide-spread and involved more than just faculty and students, it extends to staff and administration as well.
- Carol Weideman, Human Performance and Health Education, asked what the purpose of the statement is if there are no sanctions. Simpson stated that the Senate never addresses sanctions as it is not in its purview. Jane Baas, associate dean, Lee Honors College, stated that since there is not a current policy, this statement is just the first step and more will be needed to move this topic forward.
- Barkman wondered if there is evidence of a civility problem at WMU since MOA's typically come forward to solve a problem. Wertkin stated that it was developed pre-emptively and not reactively.
- Ayers questioned if the committee considered the Chicago statement. Wertkin acknowledged that it has been reviewed, as well as the discourse in The Chronicle of Higher Education but there is not a perfect statement.

A motion was made by Carlson, seconded by Krawutschke, to amend the MOA according to a handout provided. With one opposed and five abstentions the motion carried.

A motion was made by Gershon, seconded by Kritzman, to support MOA-16/05 as amended. With eight opposed and four abstentions the motion carried.

## INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

*Memorandum of Action-16/04: Renaming of Library Committee – John Saillant, Chair, Library Committee*

Saillant presented the recommendation and provided an overview of the Libraries. This was the first reading of the MOA, there was no vote. It will receive a second reading and vote at the 7 April meeting.

*Memorandum of Action-16/06: General Education Revision – Dan Jacobson, Co-Chair, Ad Hoc General Education Committee*

Jacobson presented the recommendations. This was the first reading of the MOA, there was no vote. It will receive a second reading and vote at the 7 April meeting.

- Rudge asked if the ad hoc committee will be charged with overseeing the transition. Jacobson explained that the MOA calls for a new committee.
- Jellies noted his support of the key action of the MOA which is the creation of a new committee.
- Sisay questioned the point of the “big questions” and asked for clarity. Lynde-Recchia explained that they are development in overarching issues.
- Hearit asked who the process of appointment of the design team falls to. Simpson stated it will be appointed by the Senate Executive Board.
- Peterson expressed concern that it is still named general education, and suggested “essential learning.” Jacobson explained that name will not remain but it does not make sense to rename it until there is a model in place. It will be the task of the new committee to gather input from the campus community to create the new name.

*2015-16 Graduate Student Teaching Intensive – Eli Collins-Brown, Director, Office of Faculty Development and Susan Stapleton, Dean, Graduate College*

Collins-Brown provided details of the graduate student teaching intensive which is a joint venture between the Graduate College and the Office of Faculty Development. The program was started in 2014. Each student is expected to be able to produce a teaching portfolio. Departments nominate a graduate assistant and provide the \$200 fee for the student to participate. For 2015 the program started with 21 students and 18 currently are participating. They anticipate starting 2016 with 40 students nominated. Stapleton noted that the goal of the program is to help student develop into educators and the program assists with retention of graduate students. Most GAs do not have any teacher training before getting in front of a classroom. The deadline for nominations is May 16.

- Weideman suggested that those students who complete the program serve as mentors to those students who can't attend. She asked if the evaluation and success results of this initiative will be published, to which Stapleton stated they will.
- Reinhold noted that the self-study produced by the Ad Hoc General Education Committee applies to this program since the majority of general education courses are taught by GAs.

*Bigs on Campus Program – Amy Kuchta, CEO, Big Brothers Big Sisters*  
Kuchta presented a slide presentation and noted that the proposed program would provide a middle or high school student the opportunity to be mentored by a WMU faculty or staff member.

<http://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2016/BigsOnCampus.3-3-16.pdf>

- President Dunn asked if the program include students in schools other than Kalamazoo Public Schools, such as private schools. Kuchta indicated that WMU could make that determination.
- Peterson questioned if Bigs partnered with Community in Schools. Kuchta stated that Community in Schools select the students to participate.

## PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC CONCERNS

Eckerson asked about what is being done to address the concerns of communication as a result of the mass shooting. President Dunn reiterated that Tom Edmonds has been asked to lead a small committee to help us address communication strategies as we move forward.

## ADJOURNMENT

The Senate will meet next on 7 April 2016, in the Bernhard Center, rooms 208-209. The meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

Sue Brodasky and Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office