

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE**

**PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes of 21 September 2016
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center**

Members Present: Rob Eversole, Cindy Linn, John Miller, Marcel Zondag

Member Absent: Mary Ellen Sartoris

Ex Officio Member Present: John Jellies

Advisory Member Present: Nicole Allbee, Director, Office of Student Conduct, Kathy Mitchell, Ombuds

Guest: Suzan Ayers, Faculty Senate President

Staff: Sue Brodasky

The meeting was called to order by Chair Eversole at 12:30 p.m. Welcome and introductions were conducted.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

A motion was made by Jellies, seconded by Linn, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of 20 April 2016 Minutes

A motion was made by Linn, seconded by Jellies, to approve the 20 April 2016 minutes as provided. Motion carried.

Faculty Senate President Remarks – Ayers

Ayers thanked the committee members for their service and inquired what assistance is needed. Linn suggested recruitment of additional committee members. Discussion was held. Jellies conveyed that a difficult part of the work of PCC is that it acts as a catchall; it is silent most of the time but active when there is a significant issue, which makes it difficult to explain to faculty what will be required for their service. Eversole noted that he anticipates this fiscal year the committee will be addressing student conduct in relation to plagiarism. Zondag cautioned that new committee members should have full faculty rank.

Election of Officers

Eversole nominated himself for chair.

A motion was made by Jellies, seconded by Linn, to elect Eversole as chair. Motion carried.

Zondag nominated himself for vice chair.

A motion was made by Jellies, seconded by Linn to elect Zondag as vice chair. Motion carried.

Chairs Remarks – Eversole

Eversole thanked the committee members for their continued participation. He anticipates a lot of activity for the committee this academic year.

ACTION / INFORMATION ITEMS

*Memorandum of Action-16/03: Revised Undergraduate Program
Dismissal Appeals Policy*

Eversole provided an overview of the history of the MOA and the suggested edits made by Undergraduate Studies Council. Jellies reiterated that at the last meeting the general counsel and registrar were in agreement that the suggested edits could cause additional issues for departments and the current language is accurate. Eversole reminded the committee that the department in question was provided alternatives for its specific program issues. Discussion was held.

A motion was made by Jellies, seconded by Eversole, to forward the MOA to the Faculty Senate Executive Board. Motion carried.

OTHER

Jellies noted that Executive Board Director Bret Wagner is to be invited to present additional details on his proposal regarding changes to the grade forgiveness policy. Eversole stated he will contact Wagner with an invitation to the next meeting. Brodasky was asked to invite the general counsel, the registrar, and associate provost for assessment and undergraduate studies, as well.

Jellies provided details regarding a topic that the Executive Board has been made aware of which the provost would like PCC to consider; faculty imposed consequences for student misconduct. Zondag stated that consequences should be made clear within course syllabi since it acts as the contract between the student and the instructor. Albee noted that not all instructors define it there. Eversole expressed concern about the difficulties and problems with defining sentencing guidelines. In these matters the provost office has always been, and should remain, the final attributor. Discussion was held. Jellies suggested the creation of an e-Learning class for faculty on academic integrity violations. He will report back on this topic to the Executive Board.

Jellies reported that while the Executive Board was determining 2016-17 charges for the councils there was discussion about admission criteria

definitions. It was suggested by the EB that the issue be a new charge for PCC. He will report back on this topic to the Executive Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. by Chair Eversole. The next meeting will be held October 19, 2016.

Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator