

Unit Communication Notes
Faculty Senate Meeting
December 1, 2016

Thanks to Director Sharon Carlson for her contribution to these notes

These notes are informal communications provided as a convenience for Senators and others to aid in their own communications in a timely manner. They are not intended as a substitute for meeting minutes and hold no more value, or standing, than an individual's recollection of events. The notes should not be republished, attributed or posted, and are intended to be used only to help Senators and others communicate with their constituencies in a timely fashion, in addition to a Senator's own recollections and notes. Information contained in these notes should be considered as provisional and conditional and subservient to eventual approval of formal minutes by the Senate.

*End-of-year reminder to please pay voluntary \$20 faculty fee

Senate Executive Board Report (Suzan Ayers, Faculty Senate President)

-Induction of new members into the 25-year Club was held November 29, 2016.

-Memorandum of Action-16/10: Revised Graduate Catalog Admission Requirements to Specialist Programs has been approved by the administration.

-The International Education Council (IEC) has met with representatives of the Ad Hoc General Education Design Committee to discuss the importance of global engagement in the development of the new curriculum. An IEC working group is collaborating with the Research Policies Council to facilitate international research.

-Notification for the 2017 general election, which begins in January for representatives-at-large and departmental senators, was sent out Monday.

-Departments will soon be contacted to provide their nominations for the annual Presidential Scholars Convocation, which will be due in mid-January. May require attention before winter break.

-The Presidential Search Advisory Committee conducted 2.5 days of listening sessions with the WMU/Kalamazoo communities and small groups mid-November. The committee will be finalizing the Presidential Profile next week to get the position posted. As always, the search website is and will continue to be the centralized location for input and information (<http://wmich.edu/presidentiaalsearch/>)

-Thursday 12/1/16 there was a panel discussion about students of concern. There is a handout from this session.

Recognition of Recently Deceased Emeriti Faculty Members

a. Memorial for Mary Eleanor (Mariel) Neu, Associate Professor Emerita of Art (Richard dePeaux, Professor, Frostic School of Art)

b. Memorial for Ernst A. Breisach, Professor Emeritus of History (Wilson (Bill) Warren, Chair, History)

Remarks by John Dunn (WMU President)

-Bronco Football. The notoriety of the WMU Football program has translated into good marketing opportunities and inquiries about academics. Over 46,000 tickets have been sold for the MAC Championship

game. This is the highest by far for this playoff game. There is speculation about bowl game options. If WMU goes to the Cotton Bowl, there will be a number of payouts.

-Saturday Departure for India President Dunn leaves Detroit on Saturday to visit two universities in India, including Christ University. The intent is to sustain relationships with these programs. WMU has twinning relationships with numerous institutions where students attend two years in their home country and complete programs on the WMU campus.

-Post-election Thoughts. A number of students have had questions. He has met personally with students who are undocumented and those who are part of underrepresented communities. Dunn encouraged faculty to meet with students informally.

-December 13, Board of Trustees Meeting is followed by the holiday reception 1:30-3:30PM. Dunn encouraged faculty and staff to attend, too (please make arrangements for all who wish to attend to do so).

-December 17, WMU's Commencement. Dunn encouraged faculty participation in the three ceremonies this semester.

-Gold Standard. The WMU Strategic Plan is out. Dunn complimented Jody Brylinsky for her leadership on this initiative and Cheryl Roland for the convenient pocket-sized format of the printed document.

Remarks by Tim Greene (WMU Provost & VP for Academic Affairs)

Lee Honors College Dean Search has resulted in the selection of Gary Bischof, Chair, Family & Consumer Sciences is the new dean.

Dan Litynski (Vice President for Research) announced Sherine Obare as the new Associate Vice President for Research. He thanked John Risley for his service as interim.

One of the four candidates for the Haworth College of Business Dean was on campus this week. The remaining three will be on campus the week of December 5-9, 2016.

Spring 2017 enrollment looks good. Faculty are reminded to encourage students to enroll for spring if they have not already done so to secure places in classes.

ORDER Spring 2017 textbooks if you have not, please!

Fall 2017 applications are up double digits. Greene thinks there is a direct correlation with the football team's success.

The Medallion competition is this weekend (12/2-3/16). There will be 780 students and their parents on campus.

Academic Affairs strategic plan version 3 is available on the Provost's website. There will be a publication forthcoming similar to the University's 2020 Strategic Plan booklet.

The panel this morning about helping students of concern brought together several units on campus. More than 180 faculty and staff gathered and learned best practices for helping students who are experiencing stress and distress. Provost Greene thanked Suzi Nagel, the moderator, and Diane Anderson. The session was videotaped and is on the Provost's website. Active shooter training was discussed. Contact Cam Vossen to schedule such a session for your unit.

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Faculty Involvement in Student Mental Health Issues (Lisa Marshall, Director, and Sarah Good, Counseling Specialist, Sindecuse Health Center)

- Good talked about approaches to take, creating safe spaces on campus, and how faculty can be active listeners. Departments may schedule trainings. Two handouts were provided, including one specific to post-election stress resources.

-Sindecuse Health Center has contracted with a vendor who provides mental health services 24/7. The phone number is at the bottom right of the Sindecuse website (<http://www.wmich.edu/healthcenter>). Students may use this service anytime. There is no connection with electronic medical records but Sindecuse receives a report of services received by WMU students.

Western Student Association and Graduate Student Association Updates (Taylor Hall, WSA Vice President, Chianté Lymon, WSA Political Affairs Chair; and Damon Chambers, GSA President)

-A presentation featuring an overview of this year's activities, including:

a) four resolutions,

b) initiatives completed this fall

-Adopt a Highway, voter registration drive, extended library hours during finals week, a solidarity statement, post-election forum with Delta Sigma Theta, and attendance at the American Student Government Conference in Chicago

c) future plans

A handout of this presentation is available.

Damon Chambers, Graduate Student Association President – discussed how GSA has improved several programs and services to insure they are serving the graduate student community. He reviewed programs and activities, including attendance at the Midwest Conference in Missouri.

Development and Alumni Relations Update (Timothy Terrentine, Vice President)

- Terrentine introduced himself and described a very competitive marketplace in terms of development. WMU is fighting for private dollars and people's discretionary dollars. He noted that donors want three things: appreciation, affiliation and agency. Donors (graduates, specifically) want to know their degrees are worth more than what they paid. Donors also want to be part of something larger and this year's football success is a prime example. Donors also want to be part of something that is changing the world. His focus will be on meeting donor demands by being courageous, communicative and collaborative. He wishes to continue the dialogue with the Faculty Senate.

Ad Hoc General Education Design Committee (Mervyn Elliott, Chair)

-The Committee has met with several groups, inviting groups in every other week to their weekly meetings. --

-Molly Lynde-Recchia and Staci Perryman-Clark met with the International Education Council to discuss ideas about introducing globalization.

-Dave Reinhold and Elliott met with WSA and gained student perspective. Reinhold reported that student meetings have reinforced information gained in the self-study. There are many misconceptions and misunderstandings about the role of general education. We need to create a general education curriculum that is logical and makes sense to students and how it is connected to the rest of their coursework (creating an

intentional pathway). There also needs to be a focus on getting the foundational courses completed early or at the appropriate time instead of waiting until late in their programs to take university writing.

-Committee information is now on e-learning. Under 'Select a course' look for the general education design committee link. A document listing the top ten things employers look for in recent graduates has been added. The committee is also getting a new email address.

-The January 12 Faculty Senate meeting will be focused exclusively on discussion and feedback around the General Education Design. President Ayers recommended everybody review the report prepared by the first Ad Hoc committee which serves as the basis for the work of the current Ad Hoc Committee (available on this e-learning site).

-Please encourage colleagues to read the report prepared by the earlier committee prior to attending the special meeting on January 12. Generally, there is no Faculty Senate meeting in January, so this special meeting has been scheduled to focus solely on the general education curriculum.

Questions: Are cluster classes being considered? There was also a question about the Signature Program and General Education.

Bronco Showcase – Women's Air Race Classic (Shelby Satkowiak)

- Satkowiak provided a PowerPoint presentation and described her involvement as a member of the two-woman team competing for the first time in the Women's Air Race Classic.

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC CONCERNS

Michigan Academy is having its annual meeting at WMU in March 2017. There are not enough submissions from faculty. The deadline is December 9. Please go back to department and encourage students but faculty, too.

Concern raised by faculty member trying to verify authenticity of a letter written by a doctor at Sindecuse Health Center relative to a student absence and exam. Diane Anderson reported that due to HIPAA, the student must provide a written release in order for any Sindecuse staff member to respond to this type of request.

Next meeting date: **Special Topic – General Education Design**, Thursday, 12 January 2017, Bernhard Center, Room 208-209