

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE**

**PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes of 16 November 2016  
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center**

**Members Present:** Rob Eversole, Valerian Kwigizile, Cindy Linn, John Miller, Mary Ellen Sartoris,

**Member Absent:** Marcel Zondag

**Ex Officio Member Present:** John Jellies

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

**Guest:** Bret Wagner, Faculty Senate Executive Board Director; Terry Curran, Associate Provost for Enrollment Management; David Reinhold, Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies; Carrick Craig, Interim General Counsel

**Staff:** Sue Brodasky

The meeting was called to order by Chair Eversole at 12:32 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 21 September 2016 Minutes*

Jellies asked for an edit.

A motion was made by Linn, seconded by Jellies, to approve the 21 September 2016 minutes as provided. Motion carried.

*Chairs Remarks – Eversole*

Eversole welcomed new member Kwigizile and introductions were made.

**ACTION / INFORMATION ITEMS**

*Grade Forgiveness Policy Changes – Wagner*

Eversole provided an overview of Wagner's prior suggestion. It was noted that there is a forgiveness policy already in place which is only available to student who have left the university for four or more years. Reinhold acknowledged that the current transfer policy only applies to credit hours not grades being transferred to WMU from another institution. The grade appeal policy also does not line up with the desired result. Wagner gave an example as an undergraduate student who doesn't do well in a

specific program and chooses to transfer to another colleges/program, that is willing to enroll the student, but where the student would be at a disadvantage due to a low GPA based on courses from the original program that would not be applied to the new program. The request is to forgive grades from the first program. Discussion was held regarding various examples. Craig addressed concerns regarding a policy needing to be applied equally across all programs and for all students. Detailed discussion was held. Several restrictions were identified, such that; it could only apply to courses that would not be required in the new program; it could only be done once; the program the student is transferring too would have to be in agreement; it could only be applied to a student transferring programs; it could not apply to general education courses or First-Year Seminar; and it could not be applied to grades that were a result of misconduct sanction. Wagner was asked to collaborate with Mitchell and Albee to draft a report with recommendations to create a new policy based on this discussion for further review by the committee.

**OTHER**

Miller raised a question about cheat website where students can purchase term papers, lab reports, and other assignments. Faculty cannot access the site without a significant access fee. He wondered if the Library or Information Technology would have a campus-wide access for faculty. Discussion was held. Jellies suggested that he bring the issue to the Profession Concerns portion of the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Allbee stated that she has been contacted by faculty who are upset that student work is being plagiarized when students uploaded their work to share website, but it is not against any WMU policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:39 p.m. by Chair Eversole. The next meeting will be 18 January 2016.

Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator