

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
Minutes of 12 January 2017**

The Faculty Senate met in Rooms 208-210 of the Bernhard Center. There were 70 Senators and substitutes present.

**Members Present:** O. Abudayyeh, D. Anderson, D. Areaux, S. Asefa, S. Ayers, David Paul (for K. Baldner), T. Barkman, P. Bennett, Cynthia Running-Johnson (for P. Blickle), A. Brogowicz, S. Carlson, C. Chase, P. Ciccantell, K. Corder, Anthony DeFulio (department representative), R. dePeaux, H. Dooley, J. Dunn, N. Eckerson, K. Ehrhardt, J. Eng, JoAnn Atkin (for B. Ferrin), Y. Ford, D. Foskey, J. Gabel-Goes, B. Geier, R. Gershon, J. Gilchrist, L. Gray, T. Greene, T. Gupta, J. Hahn, L. Heun, W. Huang, P. Ikononov, A. Isea, J. Jellies, D. Johnson, J. Kapenga, T. Koshmanova, P. Krawutschke, M. Lagerwey, J. Larson, D. Lepisto, W. Liou, A. Miles, W. Moncrief, I. Nash, D. Nofsinger, J. Petrovic, K. Prewitt, K. Propp, W. Rantz, D. Rudge, Ola Smith (for Jack Ruhl), L. Schmidt, D. Schuster, R. Siebert, C. D. Simpson, S. Slawinski, J. Smith, S. Summy, J. Thakurta, G. Veeck, A. Venter, U. Wagle, D. Walcott, R. White, G. Whitehurst, B. Young  
**Members Absent:** R. Aravamuthan, U. Attanayake, R. Beronja, L. Bierlein Palmer, S. Burns, R. Cooper, T. Curran, G. Flamme, K. Fogarty, C. R. Krishna-Swamy, M. Kritzman, G. Langworthy, A. Rea, J. Van Der Kley, P. Vandercook, B. Wagner, R. Wall Emerson

**Guests:** Jeffrey Angles and Olivia Gabor, World Languages and Literatures; Gary Bischof, Dean, and Jane Baas, Associate Dean, Lee Honors College; Jody Brylinsky, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness; Barbara Cockrell, Associate Dean, University Libraries; Tracy Corstange, Bronson School of Nursing; James Cousins, Associate Dean, and Keith Hearit, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Bill Davis, Frostic School of Art; Lisa DeChano-Cook and Lucius Hallett, Geography; Jim Demello, Chair, Finance and Commercial Law; Satish Deshpande, Interim Dean, Haworth College of Business; Marilyn Duke, Center for Academic Success Programs; Mervyn Elliott, Chair, Staci Perryman-Clark, Elke Schoffers, and Kristina Wirtz, Ad Hoc General Education Design Committee; Marcia Fetters, Interim Associate Dean, College of Education and Human Development; Thye Fischman, President, and Taylor Hall, Vice President, Western Student Association; Leigh Ford, Director, Communication; Staci Fruth, Director, Physical Therapy; Sarah, Hill, Environmental Studies Program; Mitch Kachun, History; Ming Li, Dean, College of Education and Human Development; Irma Lopez, Chair, Spanish; Nancy Mansberger, Director, Academic Labor Relations; Donald Meyer, Chair, Economics; Suzie Nagel, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students; Natalie Nguyen, Director, LGBT Student Services; Magdalena Niewiadomska-Bugaj, Chair, Statistics; Sherine Obare, Associate Vice President for Research; Tim Ready, Director, Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations, and Sociology; David Reinhold, Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies; Diane Riggs, Comparative Religion; Cheryl Roland, Executive Director, University Relations; Matthew Ross and Jonah Shafer, Finance and Commercial Law; Dianna Sachs, University Libraries; Jana Schulman, Director, Medieval Institute; Susan Stapleton, Dean, Graduate College; Houssam Toutanji, Dean, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Nicolas Witschi, Chair, and Brian Gogan, English; Tom Wolf, Chief

Technology Officer, Office of Information Technology, Steve Ziebarth, Chair, Kirsty Eisenhart and Thayma Lutz, Mathematics  
**Staff:** S. Brodasky, S. Davenport, M. Johnson

Faculty Senate President Suzan Ayers called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

*Presentation of the Agenda*

Since this was a special meeting, no amendments to the agenda were permitted.

*Faculty Senate Executive Board Report – Suzan Ayers,  
Faculty Senate President*

Senate President Ayers' report included the following:

- Introduced Stacie Fruth, the new chair of the Department of Physical Therapy.
- Ballots that were mailed for elections of departmental senators, for those with expiring terms, are due to be returned to the Faculty Senate office no later than 19 January. Additionally, any self-nominations for representatives-at-large are also due on 19 January.
- The call for Presidential Scholar nominations were sent out in early December and department selections are due to the Faculty Senate office by 23 January.
- On 11 January, the Presidential Search Advisory Committee received an update from Parker Executive Search. Since the profile was posted (<http://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u5/2016/WMU-PSAC-Presidential-Profile.pdf>) positive market feedback has been received about the position as well as a good response of nominated individuals. The committee asks everyone to nominate and recommend viable candidates to help WMU find the best president available. For updates and additional information, visit the search website at <http://wmich.edu/presidentalsearch>.

*Remarks by John Dunn, WMU President*

President Dunn's remarks included the following:

- Cotton Bowl: it was a great experience. The student athletes arrived on the 26<sup>th</sup> and President Dunn arrived on the 27<sup>th</sup>, as all were expected to be available for pre-game activities. The organization and treatment of staff and students was outstanding. WMU players responded in kind and represented WMU with distinction. The Bronco Marching Band, Cheer, and Dance Teams were first class. Fan turnout and response was commendable. WMU did not "win" the game, but it clearly won the hearts of the fans.
- Coach PJ Fleck's Departure: talks began just prior to the Cotton Bowl. WMU is sorry to lose Coach Fleck, and wish him well as he continues his career at the University of Minnesota. Athletic Director Kathy Beauregard is handling the matter with distinction and style, and is moving rapidly to find a new coach. It was confirmed that WMU has lost some recruits and some coaches that chose to follow Coach Fleck to Minnesota.

- Board of Trustee Appointments: it was learned prior to winter break that Governor Snyder has appointed two new trustees to replace Trustees James Hettinger and Mary Asmonga-Knapp, whose terms expired. Swearing in will occur on the Monday prior to the 23 January Board meeting:
  - Ron Kitchens, CEO of Southwest Michigan First
  - Shani Penn, Detroit native, WMU graduate, and member of the Snyder administration.
- Post Graduate Success Numbers: new post-graduate success numbers are available on the Career and Student Employment Services website. They are based on a 75 percent response rate from WMU 2015-16 graduates.
  - 92% of WMU graduates were “actively engaged” in the next steps of their professional development within three months of graduation. Those counted as actively engaged include those:
    - employed full time employment – 71%,
    - in graduate school/continuing education – 14%,
    - employed part time – 6%, or
    - in military service or volunteering full time – 1%.
  - For those employed, 84 percent were employed in jobs related to their academic discipline, 88 percent were satisfied with their job, and 76 percent were employed in Michigan.
  - The median salary range for all respondents was in the \$45,000 range.
- Faculty Accolades:
  - Jacqueline Eng, Anthropology and Faculty Senator, was seen by a worldwide audience 4 January when the work she and a team of colleagues are doing was featured on *NOVA* on PBS. The segment, “*Secrets of the Sky Tombs*,” included interviews with Eng and others about their work in studying human remains, ancient DNA and materials found in Tibet.
  - Fahad Saeed, Computer Science, has been recognized as a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

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

- Searches Update:
  - Lee Honors College Dean Search: has been completed, and the new dean is Gary Bishof
  - Haworth College of Business Dean Search: one candidate is returning to campus next week for further consideration.
  - Associate Provost for Haenicke Institute for Global Education Search: the search committee has been established. It is anticipated that there will be a finalist selected by the end of this semester.
  - College of Health and Human Services Dean: during Dean Earlie Washington’s absence Ann Tyler will be serving as interim dean.

## INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEM

### *Ad Hoc General Education Design Committee Update*

Ayers offered a sincere thank you to the members of the ad hoc General Education Design Committee. This august group will share the work in which they have been engaged since September, as well as hear input on the framework they have drafted as part of this long-awaited revision. The committee, which meets weekly and has undertaken a notable challenge to participate in this endeavor, includes:

- Kevin Knutson, College of Arts and Sciences Advising (unable to attend)
- Staci Perryman-Clark, English
- Elke Schoffers, Chemistry
- Sarah Summy, Special Education and Literacy Studies
- Kristina Wirtz, Spanish
- Dan Jacobson, Music (unable to attend)
- Administrative Representative, Dave Reinhold
- Ex Officio, Bill Rantz
- Chair, Mervyn Elliott, Aviation
- Vice Chair, Molly Lynde-Recchia, World Languages and Literatures (unable to attend)

To frame the conversation Ayers remind the Senate of the groundwork laid by the 29-member ad hoc committee charged by Past President Rantz in March 2013. That committee’s work resulted in Senate and Administration-approved MOA-16/06 from which the ad hoc Design committee has been building. Chair Elliott has communicated with the campus via email on behalf of the Design committee to share the eLearning page that contains the MOA, the first committee’s self-study report, other informational items, and discussion boards.

The working assumption is that each in attendance has invested some time in reading the prior committee’s self-study report and the MOA in order to be familiar with the foundations of the Design committee’s work. The conversation tonight will focus on the Design committee’s work.

Ayers provided a few notes about the Special Meeting. The revised agenda sent out Monday was to ensure the Senate follows its bylaws and the *American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedures*. It has been confirmed with the Senate Parliamentarian, Director Jellies, that to make this meeting as effective as possible while retaining order, the Senate will operate under the guidelines of informal debate, which includes a somewhat relaxed format without ensuing pandemonium. Ayers will serve as moderator for the discussion and cede the floor to only one speaker at a time, things such as direct questions of other attendees and follow-up points will be allowed. This is a campus conversation, so the intent is to allow all who wish to ask questions and offer input the opportunity to do so in a professional and respectful manner without a few dominating the conversation. Ayers reminded the Senate of a basic component of respectful dialogue as cited in parliamentary law; “*it is never permissible to attack the motives, character, or personality of a member either directly or by innuendo or implication*” (Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure page 130).

Chair Mervyn Elliott provided the linked presentation:

<http://www.wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2017/GenEd-Presentation.01-12-17.pdf>

It included details contained in the linked documents:

[http://www.wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2017/GenEd-Program-Description.DRAFT\\_.01-12-17.pdf](http://www.wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2017/GenEd-Program-Description.DRAFT_.01-12-17.pdf)

[http://www.wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2017/GenEd-Model.DRAFT\\_.01-12-17.pdf](http://www.wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2017/GenEd-Model.DRAFT_.01-12-17.pdf)

Sue Brodasky and Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office

Discussion covered the following questions and statements:

- Revision, not a complete restart from the existing curriculum. The Office of Faculty Development offered assistance in this process
- Outcomes-based design with emphasis on assessment.
- Curriculum based on big-questions, such as sustainability, global engagement, etc.
- Curriculum connected to majors and minors.
- Impact on professional programs.
- How transfer students and study abroad will work with the new curriculum.
- Creation of University-wide feedback systems
  - College-level committees are being established to provide ongoing feedback.
- Request to develop compare/contrast information to clarify what is unique about the new curriculum
- Implementation issues
  - Resources for course revisions
  - Credit hours required in new curriculum
  - Double-dipping and other issues related to credits and requirements

Elliott provided the results of the naming survey. The survey will be reopened for further input now that the draft model has been provided. Ayers noted that the naming survey is not a vote; the input will inform the Senate in selecting the name in February. It was suggested that General Education be included as a possibility in the survey.

#### **PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC CONCERNS**

A faculty member reported that he was informed by Disability Services for Students of accommodations that would need to be made for a blind student that had enrolled in his class. While he was impressed with the services provided by DSS, he offered concern that there are only two staff available and responsible to assist faculty in making reasonable accommodations. Provost Greene acknowledged the concern and stated that a committee has been formed to review this issue and WMU's compliance with federal requirements for disabled students.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Senate will meet next on 2 February 2017, in room 208-209 Bernhard Center. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.