

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Minutes of 2 February 2017**

The Faculty Senate met in Rooms 208-209 of the Bernhard Center. There were 68 Senators and substitutes present.

Members Present: O. Abudayyeh, D. Anderson, S. Asefa, JoAnn Atkin (department representative), U. Attanayake, S. Ayers, David Paul (for K. Baldner), T. Barkman, P. Bennett, Cynthia Running-Johnson (for P. Blickle), A. Brogowicz, S. Burns, S. Carlson, C. Chase, K. Corder, A. DeFulio, R. dePeaux, H. Dooley, J. Dunn, N. Eckerson, K. Ehrhardt, J. Eng, G. Flamme, Y. Ford, D. Foskey, J. Gabel-Goes, R. Gershon, 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, C. R. Krishna-Swamy, M. Kritzman, J. Larson, D. Lepisto, W. Liou, W. Moncrief, I. Nash, D. Nofsinger, J. Petrovic, K. Prewitt, K. Propp, W. Rantz, D. Rudge, L. Schmidt, R. Siebert, C. D. Simpson, S. Slawinski, J. Smith, S. Summy, J. Thakurta, J. Van Der Kley, G. Veeck, A. Venter, U. Wagle, B. Wagner, D. Walcott, R. White, B. Young

Members Absent: R. Aravamathan, R. Beronja, L. Bierlein Palmer, P. Ciccantell, R. Cooper, T. Curran, K. Fogarty, B. Geier, J. Gilchrist, G. Langworthy, A. Miles, J. Ruhl, D. Schuster, P. Vandercook, R. Wall Emerson, G. Whitehurst

Guests: Marc Alspector-Kelly, Philosophy; Gary Bischof, Dean, Lee Honors College; Jane Blyth, Interim Associate Provost, Haenicke Institute for Global Education; James Bosco, Professor Emeritus, Special Education and Literacy Studies; Jody Brylinsky, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness; Barbara Cockrell, Associate Dean, University Libraries; Marilyn Duke, Center for Academic Success Programs; Mervyn Elliott, Chair, Molly Lynde-Recchia, Vice Chair, Staci Perryman-Clark, and Elke Schoffers, Ad Hoc General Education Design Committee; Thye Fischman, President, and Taylor Hall, Vice President, Western Student Association; Leigh Ford, Director, Communication; Keith Hearit, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Sarah Hill, Institute for the Environment and Sustainability; Carla Koretsky, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Ming Li, Dean, College of Education and Human Development; Tim McGrew, Chair, Philosophy; Jadei D. Mcpeak, Political Science; Suzie Nagel-Bennett, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students; Sherine Obare, Associate Vice President for Research; Kelley Pattison, Nursing; David Reinhold, Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies; Cheryl Roland, Executive Director, University Relations; Greg Rosine, Vice President for Government Affairs and University Relations; Lee Ryder, Director, Immigration Services, Haenicke Institute for Global Education; Susan Stapleton, Dean, Graduate College; Raymond Thompson, Associate Dean, College of Aviation; Houssam Toutanji, Dean, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Alicia Van Ee, Comparative Religion; Xiyao Xiang, Economics

Staff: S. Brodasky, S. Davenport, M. Johnson

Faculty Senate President Suzan Ayers called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

A motion was made by Jellies, seconded by Rantz to add an action item to endorse recent institutional statements in favor of student status. Motion carried.
A motion was made by Heun, supported by Asefa, to accept the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of 1 December 2016 Senate Meeting
Without objection, the minutes of the 1 December meeting were approved as published.

Approval of Minutes of 12 January 2017 Senate Meeting
Without objection, the minutes of the 12 January meeting were approved as published.

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

Senate President Ayers' report included the following:

- The Presidential Search Advisory Committee met 1 February for an update from Parker Executive Search and learned the market interest in the position remains enthusiastic. While diversity of the candidate pool is good, applicants from historically under-represented groups are still being sought. About 20% of all nominations have come from campus. Senators were asked to nominate anyone they believe would be a strong candidate.
- Last week WMU's two newest Board of Trustees members were sworn in for their eight-year terms: Shani Penn and Ron Kitchens. Formal acknowledgment was offered to outgoing Trustees, Mary Asmonga-Knapp and Jim Hettinger.
- Dean's Circles have been formed across campus to provide feedback to the Ad Hoc General Education Design Committee. These groups have begun meeting and some have already provided feedback to the Design Committee. Feedback is due by February 13.
- At a recent meeting with the Western Student Association about the ongoing General Education revision, WSA was encouraged to weigh in with respective Dean's Circles to offer feedback.
- An ad hoc committee to coordinate the development of General Education implementation suggestions for the administration is being seated. While the scope of this work will include a vast majority of the campus, some of the key areas involved will be the Registrar's Office, the Office of Assessment and Undergraduate Studies, Extended University Programs, Admissions, Advising, the University Assessment Steering Committee, and the Committee to Oversee General Education.
- The Executive Board has approved a procedural deadline for online-only submission of all new course change proposals (not program proposals) effective 1 April 2017. This action was in response to requests to revise the curriculum review process currently in use. This revision is designed to improve the system for tracking proposals and keep items moving efficiently forward. In addition, this revision includes a simplification of the

paper form, with automated population of certain fields (like existing catalogue language and prerequisites) from the system. Spring 2018 proposals are due March 31, so after that date only online proposals for course changes will be accepted by the office of the Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies.

- In accordance with revised MOA-14/03: Revised Policy on Centers and Institutes, the Faculty Senate Centers and Institutes Subcommittee has been formed and is seeking faculty participants. This group will be charged to create a non-curriculum process for proposals of new centers and institutes, develop a process for managing annual and five-year reporting, participate in the review process, and advise the Administration based on those reviews. If you are interested in this work, please contact the Senate office.
- James Bosco, Professor Emeritus, Special Education and Literacy Studies, provided a memorial for colleague Mary Cain, Professor Emerita, Education and Professional Development.

Remarks by John Dunn, WMU President

President Dunn's remarks included the following:

- President Trump's Executive Order: affected seven countries represented on WMU's campus; Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Sudan, Somalia, and Yemen.
 - Impacted approximately 100 WMU students, most of which are from Iraq and Iran.
 - One candidate from Iran that was a finalist for a faculty position was impacted.
 - It has had a chilling effect on international students and the campus community.
 - Steps Taken: A presidential statement was issued on Monday restating our values and support for students from the seven countries as well as all international students. Communication and advice was provided by Haenicke Institute for Global Education. A meeting is planned with Muslim leaders to ensure we are using the correct channel to manage the specifics.
 - The Graduate Student Association has planned an open meeting at 5 p.m. in the Bernhard Center. International luncheons continue.
 - Iraqi Counsel General was recently on campus to study why Iraq students are doing so well at WMU, since it is not the trend at other universities. It was found that they make more personal connections without typical biases interfering.
 - There is worry that it will have an impact on future recruitment of international students. It would be to the detriment to the University to lose that diversity at WMU. And worry about Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals students being negatively impacted. WMU is working hard to sustain that program.
 - American Association for Land Grant, and other associations signed on with several universities in response to the executive order.

- Our Role: to support our international students, to help others understand the value of a diverse global campus, to maintain a campus that is respectful of divergent thoughts, to model the very best behavior for our students, and to be leaders.
- Political Landscape at Federal Level: we are clearly in uncharted waters and the future is uncertain. The nomination of Betsy DeVos, as Secretary of Education, is a concern especially for higher education, as well as the appointment of Jerry Falwell. There are additional worries about the impact on science, environment, financial aid, and enforcements related to sexual awareness/assaults etc. WMU needs to retain the commitment to our goals and values.
- Non-resident Tuition Rate: the current non-resident tuition rate has been very high, approximately 2.4 times higher than the resident tuition rate. Therefore, it has been reduced to 1.25 times higher than resident tuition rate and will be effective summer 1 2017.
 - It is projected that migration of residents of Michigan will yield a reduction in future high school graduating students of 16.5% by the year 2028.
 - The new rate will be applicable for undergraduate students.
 - Once a student enters WMU at the 1.25 rate, it will remain the same for four to six years, but will be adjusted for normal tuition increases.
 - Current non-resident students paying the higher rate are able to apply for the residential rate.
 - There are several other tuition scales at WMU, which will be reviewed and simplified.
- Trustee Updates:
 - Ron Kitchens and Shani Penn have been seated.
 - Trustee Dana Debel resigned and was replaced by Lynn Chen-Zhang, a partner and chief operation officer with Zhang Financial.
 - Jeff Rinevelt was elected as chair, and Jim Bolger as vice chair.
- Student accolades:
 - For the second year in a row, junior trombone performance major Tim Wight has been named an Alternate (fifth place) in the International Trombone Association's Larry Wiehe Solo Competition. Placing ahead of Tim were students from Vanderbilt University, Baylor University, and students from the countries of Venezuela and Germany. Tim is a student of professor Steve Wolfenbarger.
- Faculty accolades:
 - Geosciences researcher Michelle A. Kominz has been elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and will be recognized 18 February during the association's annual meeting in Washington. Kominz is one of just 10 new fellows nationally being welcomed into the Geology and Geography Division.
 - Advanced thanks to Gregory Veeck in geography who is organizing the 2017 meeting of the Michigan Academy of

Science, Arts and Letters that will be held here at WMU in Sangren Hall on Friday, March 10. Some 500 faculty members and students from member institutions will share their work at the event, and presentations will be made in more than 30 sections of the sciences, humanities, and social sciences. The academy has 38 member institutions in the state.

Discussion covered the following questions and statements:

- It was asked if the new out-of-state tuition rate applied to graduate students. Dunn indicated that it does not but that a new rate is expected.
- How will the tuition change affect the University balance sheet? Dunn responded there is a need to increase enrollment in order to affect the balance sheet, which is expected to happen with the decrease in out-of-state tuition, but a larger factor will be international student enrollment.
- Discussion was held regarding graduate assistant students and the presidential executive order effect.

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

- Searches Update:
 - Haworth College of Business Dean Search: an offer has been extended and an announcement is expected next week.
 - Associate Provost for Haenicke Institute for Global Education Search: the job posting has been created and a search firm selected. It is anticipated the search will be concluded by late May. In the meantime, Jane Blyth has been named interim associate provost.
- Enrollment:
 - Spring 2017: undergraduates were down 2.1% and graduates were down 1%. First Time In Any College (FTIAC) student retention was down by two students from fall to spring semester.
 - Fall 2017 is projected to be up by 7.4%
- HIGE Welcome Poster: was created by HIGE staff and student designer. It is available at HIGE.

Discussion covered the following questions and statements:

- It was suggested that the flags for the seven countries affected by the presidential executive order be displayed at the international flagpoles. Provost Greene will inquire with HIGE, which manages those, to discuss that arrangement.

ACTION ITEMS

Endorsement of President John Dunn Diversity Statement

A motion was made by Krawutschke, seconded by Jellies, for the Faculty Senate to endorse President John M. Dunn's immigration executive order statement and the WMU-AAUP Resolution of Solidarity with WMU Students as included in the January 9 Western Herald. The motion was unanimously carried.

<http://www.wmich.edu/president/statement-immigration-executive-order>

"Whereas Every Student is Welcome at Western Michigan University and Deserves to Feel Accepted, Included, Empowered, and Safe Here; Be It Resolved that the Board-appointed faculty of Western Michigan University, individually and collectively, stands in solidarity with the students of this university and extends to them our attention, our understanding, our support, our advocacy, and – when and if they need it – our protection, at this singular moment in our nation's history and always." – Approved by the WMU – AAUP faculty on November 18, 2016

MOA-17/01: Naming of the Revised General Education Curriculum
Ad Hoc General Education Design Committee member and Senator Sarah Summy presented Memorandum of Action-17/01: Naming of the Revised General Education Curriculum. The Ad Hoc General Education Design Committee recommends naming the revised general education curriculum "WMU Essential Studies."

An amendment to the motion was made by Simpson, seconded by Jellies, that the name become effective as of the date of implementation of the new curriculum. With one opposed and one abstention, the amendment carried.

Discussion covered the following questions and statements:

- There was concern that a new name would cause confusion among the student body and affiliated community colleges,
- A few people stated that there was no need for a new name, specifically until a new curriculum has been determined.
- It was noted that MOA-16/06: General Education Revision contained two recommendations, design of a new curriculum, and a new name. The new curriculum will need a new name to denote the changes.
- Members were reminded that two ad hoc committees have worked for over three years on the project of creating a new curriculum. Within that work, it was acknowledged that it is a national trend to move away from the term general education, which is viewed as a negative connotation.
- A handful of times concern was expressed that the on-line survey did not include the option of retaining the name general education.
- A student's perspective was offered that regardless of the name, students would view the curriculum as courses they just have to get done. A concern was expressed that students had not been able to participate in the survey.
- It was noted that the term general education is widely used in special education for students who do not have a disability thus a new name would be of value as long as advisors communicate to students the excitement of the new curriculum to make it meaningful.
- Some were inclined to vote in favor of essential studies because it represents more than general education. It would send a message that students get a wide education and take away from the concept of vocational education.
- It was suggested that both names be used, as in Essential General Education.

A motion was made by Summy, seconded by Rantz, to approve MOA-17/01 as presented. By virtue of a 29/29 vote tie with five abstentions the motion failed.

A motion was made by Jellies, seconded by Petrovic, to refer the question back to the Ad Hoc General Education Design Committee. With three opposed and seven abstentions, the motion carried.

MOA-16/03: Revised Undergraduate Program Dismissal Appeals Policy
Ayers provided a note of context about the two MOAs. The Faculty Senate Professional Concerns Committee dealt with a program dismissal concern brought to them before, as mandated in its charges. In so doing and as part of its due diligence, PCC sought input from the Offices of the Ombudsman, Student Conduct, and General Counsel. After finalizing the MOA, it was shared with the Undergraduate Studies Council and presented to the Executive Board. One of the key changes of policy recommended in the MOA corrects a defect in the prior policy and is based on language provided to the Executive Board by University General Counsel.

As MOA-15/01 was being finalized, the Graduate Studies Council learned the Undergraduate Studies Council was facing a similar situation. To provide consistent language for both the undergraduate and graduate catalogs, MOA-15/01 was held for that purpose. When the challenges noted previously for MOA-16/03 unfolded, MOA-15/01 was unfortunately caught in administrative limbo. Now that consistent language has been developed, both MOAs are presented for Senate consideration.

Ayers stated that the Faculty Senate Executive Board recommends revision of the Program Dismissal Appeals Policy in the undergraduate catalog.
A motion was made by Jellies, seconded by Wagner, to approve MOA-16/03 as presented. Motion carried.

MOA-15/01: Revised Graduate Program Dismissal Appeals Policy
Ayers stated that the Faculty Senate Executive Board recommends revision of the Program Dismissal Appeals Policy in the graduate catalog.
A motion was made by Jellies, seconded by Carlson, to approve MOA-15/01 as presented. Motion carried.

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Cooley Law School Update – Kevin Corder, WMU Liaison

Corder noted that Cooley has a presence on WMU's campus through two classes in spring 2017, faculty offices in Walwood Hall, and a staff office in Friedmann Hall. There is an accelerated degree program in interdisciplinary legal studies minor, and a clinical wrongful conviction program. In the near future Cooley will be offering second year law classes for a total of 60 hours available on WMU's main campus and an articulation agreement for transfer credits between WMU and Cooley. Faculty and staff (including spouses and dependents) are eligible for a tuition discount of 50% toward Cooley Law School.
<http://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2017/CooleyLawSchoolUpdate.pdf>

Ad Hoc General Education Design Committee Update

Ayers noted that at the 12 January Senate meeting, a comment had been made asking that the revision of general education be held until a new WMU president

had been hired. The challenge of that comment is that the curriculum belongs to the faculty. Following the committees update there will be an opportunity to brainstorm on the implementation of the revised model. While it is difficult to separate the design from the implementation (which technically is the responsibility of the Administration), it would be imprudent to ask for a vote in April on a model about which Senators have ongoing logistical concerns.

Elliott noted that a lot of feedback was being reviewed by the committee and explained that the eLearning site was the best place to provide feedback as the process continues. He encouraged faculty to get involved in the Dean's Circles. In follow up to comments at the January Senate meeting, members of the committee met with faculty of professional programs to clarify the 37 credit hours in the new curriculum will be replacing the current 37 credit hours of general education rather than being in addition. Questions regarding transfer students will be addressed during implementation planning. Minor changes were made to the model regarding the Foundational Level search for identity course. The committee is in contact with the Signature Program and have plans to meet with program staff.

Lynde-Recchia gave the linked presentation:

<http://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2017/GenEdPresentation.2-2-17.pdf>

Discussion covered the following questions and statements:

- It was noted several times that critical thinking is missing.
- It was suggested that admission be more selective when accepting students to ensure they are prepared with writing skills. It was stated that students are unprepared and time is spent on remedial skills.
- Professional programs see a need in reducing credit hours in the new curriculum.
- It was noted that one of the intents of this design is to get away from adherence from particular departments being the only ones to teach particular skills. It allows programs to develop course work more relevant.
- It was acknowledged that there is understanding of existing courses that could be incorporated into the new curriculum.
- One course could be used to satisfy multiple objectives.
- The new program appears to be almost the same as the current program.
- It was asked if there is allowance for customization. Could cultures course be substituted for the language requirement. Discussion was held regarding waivers. It was noted that the language course was intended as natural human language and did not include computer coding.

The Executive Board has assumed the need for an implementation planning group from the beginning of this process. It has become clear from comments at the January meeting that it is time to begin that process. Given this, President Ayers invited a brief brainstorming session to create a work list for the soon-to-be-seated committee.

The following statements were suggested:

- Transfers

- Transfer agreements
- Adult learners
- Credit hours
- Merge with accreditation requirements
- Sequencing and flexibility
- Courses with mixed content
- How are courses affected by being both general education courses and major requirement courses
- How and what resources will be provided for redesign of courses
- Since part-time instructors teach most of the general education courses what resources will be available to them for training
- How will the transition from the old program to the new program be managed when both courses have to be offered

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC CONCERNS

Discussion covered the following questions and statements:

- Concerns were expressed about the removal of faculty homepages and the recommendation of transition to google sites. No support or resources are being provided to faculty to make that change. Also, it was questioned as to the amount of savings being realized by instituting this change. Provost Greene indicated he will have the Office of Information Technology respond.
- An issue was stated where students experiencing blindness/low-vision get less attention and faculty having no resources to help them, as compared to students experiencing deafness/low-hearing. Notification to faculty comes too late and there is a long wait for students to get services. Departments are having to pay for interpreters and are ill equipped to make appropriate selection of those resources. Students are knowledgeable of discrepancies, which could create legal concerns. The office of Disabled Services for Students needs more staff and resources. Provost Greene noted that this topic was discussed at the January Senate meeting, at which time he explained that a committee has been formed to review sight and hearing impaired issues on campus. However, he noted that students have to self-declare to the DSS office, which may postpone notification to the faculty member. Simpson stated that the Faculty Senate Academic and Information Technology Council and Campus Planning and Finance Council have each created subcommittees to review issues of ADA compliance.
- It was suggested by a WMU student that parking fees should be included as part of tuition, and that students should be allowed to park in all lots, such that parking does not pose a distraction for students from focusing on course work.

ADJOURNMENT

The Senate will meet next on 2 March 2017, in room 208 Bernhard Center. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.