

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE**

**PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes of 15 February 2017
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center**

Members Present: Kelly Ackerson, Rob Eversole, Melissa Intindola, Valerian Kwigizile, Nora Lewis, Cindy Linn, Mary Ellen Sartoris

Members Absent: John Miller, Marcel Zondag

Ex Officio Member Present: John Jellies

Advisory Members Present: Nicole Albee, Director, Student Conduct; Kathy Mitchell, Ombudsman

Guests: Dachea Hill, Director, Admissions; Terrence Curran, Associate Provost for Enrollment Management

Staff: Sue Brodasky

The meeting was called to order by Chair Eversole at 12:31 p.m.

Welcome and introductions were conducted.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

The action item of Program Change with Grade Forgiveness was removed due to Bret Wagner's absence.

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

Approval of 18 January 2017 Minutes

A motion was made by Jellies, seconded by Linn, to approve the 18 January 2017 minutes as provided. Motion carried.

Chairs Remarks – Eversole

No report provided.

ACTION / INFORMATION ITEMS

Admission Criteria Discussion

Eversole asked for a definition of the WMU admission criteria. Hill indicated there is a sliding scale that is used to measure both high school GPA and standardized (ACT/SAT) test scores. Different ranges and variables determine if a student is accepted. Approximately 900 students are denied annually. Hill indicated that 15 thousand applications are processed annually. Eversole questioned if disabled students and non-traditional students are held to a different criteria. Hill said that a student's disability is not considered during admission consideration. The student would have been provided accommodations in high school, which would also be available to the student at WMU. Curran stated that GPA tends to be a better predictor for student success than test scores. Jellies asked if more weight is placed on GPA than test scores. Curran replied that the sliding scale is used for the student's best interest, but that WMU has made decisions over the last five years that were concessions, which lowered the quality of the student body. He

has implemented a change in the out-of-state tuition rate, which will increase enrollment. Discussion was held regarding enrollment and retention endeavors. When asked how the decisions are made for the sliding scale, Hill replied that a grid to apply the scale exists. Curran noted he is committed to raising the quality of WMU students. Hill believes the quality has not been sacrificed, but rather that WMU is seeing an increase of quality students. Curran stated that faculty need to support programs by being present and available during admission activities. It was noted that President John Dunn has stated that test scores are not allowed to be used as criteria for enrollment. Hill corrected that they cannot be the sole criteria used but rather must be considered in conjunction with other criteria. It was suggested that Dave Reinhold, associate provost for assessment and undergraduate studies, be invited to speak at a Faculty Senate meeting regarding the ALPHA program.

Student Misconduct Appeal Process Discussion

Jellies provided background on MOA-15/01: Revised Graduate Program Dismissal Appeals Policy and MOA-16/03: Revised Undergraduate Program Dismissal Appeals Policy regarding the loophole for appealing program dismissal as a result of academic misconduct. The administration has expressed concern about the lack of fairness without an appeals process. Jellies will research an academic honesty policy that pre-dates the year 1999 that is the precursor for the misconduct policy and report back to the committee at the next meeting. Discussion was held.

Academic Integrity Process – Albee

Jellies supplied details to the Executive Board of Albee's report at the last meeting. The EB asked for a root cause analysis. There is a need to gather data of the faculty that have been asked to participate and what the trends are for those that have responded. Brodasky was instructed to pull the data, sorted by unit and college. Albee will provide data regarding participation.

Committee Charges – Jellies

It was noticed by Faculty Senate President Suzan Ayers that the committee's charges have not been updated since 2011 and asked the committee to provide any updated items to be added. The Role Statement establishes this body to oversee policy. Eversole confirmed that action items are brought forward from the administration through the EB, from the Ombudsman, or from the Office of Student Conduct.

OTHER

The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m. by Chair Eversole. The final academic year meeting will be 19 April 2017.

Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator