

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
Minutes of 6 April 2017**

The Faculty Senate met in Rooms 208-209 of the Bernhard Center. There were 69 Senators and substitutes present.

**Members Present:** O. Abudayyeh, D. Anderson, S. Asefa, J. Atkin, U. Attanayake, S. Ayers, David Paul (for K. Baldner), T. Barkman, P. Bennett, Phil Johnson (for R. Beronja), Olivia Gabor-Peirce (for P. Blickle), S. Burns, S. Carlson, C. Chase, P. Ciccantell, K. Corder, T. Curran, A. DeFulio, R. dePeaux, H. Dooley, J. Dunn, N. Eckerson, J. Eng, Y. Ford, D. Foskey, J. Gabel-Goes, B. Geier, J. Gilchrist, L. Gray, T. Greene, T. Gupta, L. Heun, W. Huang, P. Ikononov, A. Isea, J. Jellies, J. Kapenga, T. Koshmanova, P. Krawutschke, M. Kritzman, Willem Homan (for G. Langworthy), J. Larson, D. Lepisto, W. Liou, A. Miles, W. Moncrief, I. Nash, D. Nofsinger, J. Petrovic, K. Prewitt, K. Propp, W. Rantz, D. Rudge, Jagjit Saini (for J. Ruhl), Brian Wilson (for R. Siebert), C. D. Simpson, S. Slawinski, J. Smith, S. Summy, J. Thakurta, P. Vandercook, J. Van Der Kley, Todd Ellis (for G. Veeck), A. Venter, Z. Vidic, B. Wagner, D. Walcott, R. White, B. Young

**Members Absent:** R. Aravamuthan, D. Areaux, L. Bierlein Palmer, A. Brogowicz, R. Cooper, K. Ehrhardt, G. Flamme, K. Fogarty, R. Gershon, J. Hahn, D. Johnson, C. R. Krishna-Swamy, A. Rea, L. Schmidt, D. Schuster, U. Wagle, R. Wall Emerson, G. Whitehurst

**Guests:** Gary Bischof, Dean, Lee Honors College; Jody Brylinsky, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness; Marilyn Duke, Center for Academic Success Programs; Mervyn Elliott, Chair, Molly Lynde-Recchia, Vice Chair, and Staci Perryman-Clark, Ad Hoc General Education Design Committee; Leigh Ford, Director, School of Communication; Decker Hains, Management and Civil and Construction Engineering; Sarah Hill, Institute for the Environment and Sustainability; Carla Koretsky, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Rachel Larson, undergraduate student, Supply Chain Management; Chiantie Lymon, President, and Logan Brown, Vice President, Western Student Association; Nancy Mansberger, Director, Academic Labor Relations; Suzie Nagel-Bennett, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students; David Reinhold, Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies; Cheryl Roland, Executive Director, University Relations; Raymond Thompson, Associate Dean, College of Aviation

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

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

**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

*Acceptance of the Agenda*

An amendment was made by Chase, seconded by Simpson, to add the Graduate Student Association update to the information items. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Gupta, supported by Asefa, to accept the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

*Approval of Minutes of 2 March 2017 Senate Meeting*  
Without objection, the minutes of the 2 March meeting were approved as published.

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

Senate President Ayers' report included the following:

- New Senator was introduced:
  - Zeljka Vidic, Human Performance and Health Education
- Barbara Jane Miller, WMU's first lady for 13 years and widow of the University's third president, James W. Miller, died February 14 at age 98.
- Ross Gregory, retired professor of History, died February 10 at age 83.
- Memorandum of Action-17/02: Revision of Provisional Acceptance Policy has been approved by the administration.
- The Presidential Search Advisory Committee conducted airport interviews on March 22 and 23 to select the finalists for the Board of Trustees consideration. Three candidates were presented to the Board, which has begun the vetting process. The official announcement is slated to be made at the April 27 Board of Trustees meeting.  
<http://wmich.edu/presidentialexecutive>
- Continuation of Home Pages will cost the University \$40 thousand per year, and a one-time \$100 thousand update fee, to maintain the 281 faculty and emeriti home pages currently active.
- E-Learning announced a Desire2Learn upgrade effective fall 2017. Faculty who use D2L may obtain training on the minor updates either online or via requested individual training.

*Remarks by John Dunn, WMU President*

President Dunn's remarks included the following:

- Budget Update:
  - The Governor's recommendation was a 2.3% tuition increase with a cap at 4.2%
  - The House of Representatives is recommending a 1.7% tuition increase with a cap at 3.8%
  - The Senate is recommending a 1.8% tuition increase with a cap of 3.8%
  - The tuition rate is expected to be resolved by early June.
  - WMU is compared to other universities in the same Carnegie classification (research high institution).
- Commencement:
  - There will be four ceremonies; 9 a.m. is The College of Aviation and the Haworth College of Business; 12:30 p.m. is the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the College of Health and Human Services; 4 p.m. is the College of Education and Human Development, the College of Fine Arts, and Extended University Programs; and 7:30 p.m. is the College of Arts and Sciences.
  - The governor will be attending the 9 a.m. ceremony.

- There will be an honorary doctorate awarded at the evening ceremony to Antonio Flores, President of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities and graduate of WMU.
- Faculty were encouraged to attend commencement.
- On the Road:
  - President Dunn's farewell tour went well with 14 different stops, including Chicago, Phoenix, and San Francisco.
  - The tour highlighted the things that have changed and accomplishments that have been made at WMU over the last 10 years.
  - The tour garnered some very nice donations and endowments.
- Meeting of the American Council on Education: discussion included the selection of a new WMU president, DACA and international students, and emerging new higher education institutions.
- Miscellaneous
  - Bronco Buds Program: Kalamazoo Public Schools 6<sup>th</sup> graders spend a day on campus for the ninth year. The students are encouraged to attend a higher education institution, to be respectful to teachers and parents, and are talked to about what is needed to have success in specific careers.
  - International Festival: was held last week. The event continues to grow and all were encouraged to attend next year.
  - Presidential Scholar Convocation: a joint effort with the Faculty Senate to recognize outstanding undergraduate students, which are selected by faculty in each department.
  - Trustee Line Up: Lynn Chen-Zhang was recently named as a WMU Board of Trustee member. She and her husband Charles own and operate a successful financial management company.
  - Geography Bee: coordinated by faculty member Lisa DeChano-Cook, the Michigan championships were held at WMU and the winner move on to compete in the finals in Washington, D.C.
  - Congressman Upton Visit: a meeting has been planned with international students, primarily those from the seven countries affected by the presidential executive order.
  - Cesar Chavez Celebration: appreciation was expressed to Michael Ramirez and the committee. There were seven scholarships awarded to students, with four of those coming to WMU.
- Student Accolades:
  - Congratulations to all of the Presidential Scholar recipients.
  - International Festival
  - The Western Student Association and Graduate Student Association leadership. They are very serious about what they do, and have the ability to interact well in this forum as well as others. That is not the case at other universities. President Dunn is very proud and appreciative of both organizations.

Discussion covered the following questions and statements:

- When asked if there is a desired way WMU would suggest the tuition rate be determined, President Dunn stated that the problem with percentages is that they lead to different amounts based on the starting tuition rate. If WMU were to choose to ignore the governor's tuition restrictions, then WMU would not receive state funding and would be removed from the capital outlay list for three years. He suggested allowing the trustees, who have been appointed by the governor, to be the stewards of the University, to make the decision about what is best for WMU.

*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: the search firm has identified a new group of candidates. Airport interviews will be held in two weeks at the WMU Beltline campus Grand Rapids.
  - Associate Provost for Haenicke Institute for Global Education Search: ten outstanding candidates have been selected for airport interviews next week.
- Sabbatical Workshops: before the end of the semester there will be one or two workshops co-sponsored with AAUP, and lead by Associate Dean Keith Hearit.
- Promotion and Tenure Workshops: will be held in late May and early fall, also in conjunction with the AAUP. The workshops are designed to inform faculty how to put together organized packets as well as how to perform reviews.
- Enrollment Update:
  - Domestic freshman admits are up 6.3%
  - International freshman admits are down 47% (106 students)
  - Domestic transfers admits are up 6.1%
  - International transfers admits are up 42.2% (27 students)
  - Domestic doctoral admits are down 12% (13 students)
  - International doctoral admits are down 9.4% (10 students)
  - Domestic masters admits are down 17.5%
  - International masters admits are down 5.5%
  - There are several departments with applications still in process. The provost asked for decisions to be made as soon as possible, even if the applications are not complete.
- Summer I Enrollment: is weak this year due to the good economy allowing students to work over the summer in order to making the money needed to pay tuition.
- Departmental Student Awards: a lot of effort is made to hold the events and they are very special to the students. Appreciation was expressed to the departments.
- Community Humanities Course: the provost thanked the faculty, staff, and administrators involved in offering the humanities course for the community, which is in its sixth year and has served 43 people in the community.

## ACTION ITEM

### *MOA-17/03: Creation of Block Transfer of Military Credit Policy – David Reinhold, Chair, Transfer of Credit Committee*

Reinhold stated that the Transfer of Credit Committee, in consultation with the Undergraduate Studies Council, recommends a new policy on block transfer of military credit. The purpose is to allow transfer of credits from Joint Services Transcript (JST) and Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) transcripts. The courses have been evaluated by the American Council of Education (ACE) and have been equated to college-level curriculum. However, they do not equate to current WMU courses and thus are being allowed just for general credits to acknowledge the work at the level of a four-year institution.

Discussion included the following:

- It was asked if there should be a sunset clause for accepting these credits. Reinhold stated that is not the case for other students, and since most come directly from military service to WMU, it is not necessary.

A motion was made by Chase, seconded by Asefa, to approve MOA-17/03 as presented. Motion carried.

### *MOA-17/01: Naming of the Revised General Education Curriculum – Sarah Summy, Ad Hoc General Education Design Committee*

Memorandum of Action-17/01: Naming of the Revised General Education Curriculum is descriptive of the move WMU is making from a content-based general education curriculum to an outcomes-based approach. The revised curriculum recommended by the *Ad Hoc* General Education Design Committee is driven by essential learning outcomes.

Summy stated The *Ad Hoc* General Education Design Committee recommends naming the revised general education curriculum “WMU Essential Studies.” It was a charge of the committee to recommend a name. WMU advisors have stated it would be confusing to have two programs with the same name. The Elearning survey indicated that WMU Essential Studies was the preferred name.

A motion was made by Summy, seconded by Jellies, to approve MOA-17/01 as presented. Paper ballots were distributed and results were reported that the motion carried.

### *First Reading of MOA-17/05: Revision of General Education Design – Sarah Summy, Ad Hoc General Education Design Committee*

The Executive Board has acted in full consultation and transparency with the academic community on the revision of WMU’s general education curriculum. This first reading is uncommon, but the impact and scope of this policy merits every opportunity for the Senate body to consider the topic. There will be a motion to approve MOA-17/05, support, then a presentation of the committee’s recommendation. Following, there will be up to 15 minutes of discussion, with the further definitive action postponed for consideration at the May meeting. The discussion period will be used to clarify what is being proposed. There will not be any subsidiary motions such as amendments; rather this is notice of the formal action proposed by the *Ad Hoc* General Education Design Committee. Questions, comments, and requests for clarification are welcome. In May, MOA-17/05 will be presented for debate, discussion, and definitive action.

Summy stated that the Ad Hoc General Education Design Committee recommends that the Faculty Senate adopt the model designed by the committee in revising WMU’s general education curriculum.

A motion was made by Summy, seconded by Barkman, to approve MOA-17/05 as presented.

Discussion covered the following questions and statements:

- The connection of critical thinking to the Foundations-Level humanities course was questioned. Elliott noted that critical thinking will be found in many courses but this particular course category is where it will be assessed.
- Concern regarding the three skill course categories and one discipline-specific course grouped in the Foundations Level. Lynde-Recchia indicated that Level-II has discipline-specific courses to create a balance.
- A couple of statements were made to ensure that humanities were preserved in the Foundations Level.
- It was expressed that the goal is the engagement of students with topics they have not been exposed.
- There is a challenge since this MOA is for faculty consideration and the message to students may be different.
- There is still confusion on logistics with understanding how courses will qualify to be included, and that leads to questions of resource allocations, such as faculty lines, graduate assistant allocations, etc. At other universities, these kinds of changes have caused departments to disappear.
- Concern was expressed about professional programs’ limit of six credit hours within the major or minor, and whether that is a firm number or is it negotiable? Ayers noted the MOA statement allowing processes to consider exemptions for high credit-hour programs.
- The committee was asked to speak to the concern of overlap between design and logistics, whereas faculty are being asked to approve the design, will there be flexibility allowed in logistics, specifically can the design still be amended for implementation. Elliott indicated that there has to be flexibility. If, and when, the MOA is passed, if logistics comes upon an issue there can be amendments to the MOA in order to address necessary changes. Ayers noted that the provost has assured to do whatever possible to allocate resources for implementation.
- Clarity was asked for regarding Level-III as the differential in the two courses does not represent the world today. Lynde-Recchia acknowledged that the committee received input from the International Education Council, which led to discussion of creating one broad course category course without distinction; however, it was deemed that would allow students to complete general education without having taken a course with a global perspective. To ensure global content is included, the decision was made to the two course categories, allowing the local and national course category to include global content if the faculty member so chooses.
- It was questioned why the design does not include business and/or the management department. Elliott noted that the current general education

curriculum does not include such distinctions, yet all departments are listed within the courses available in the curriculum.

### **INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### *Western Student Association Year-End Updates –*

The newly elected president of WSA, Chiantie Lymon, provided a PowerPoint presentation of the WSA's actions and events this academic year:

<http://www.wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2017/WSA-Presentation.4-6-17.pdf>

#### *Bronco Showcase – Supply Chain Management – Rachel Larson, Undergraduate Student and Bret Wagner, Executive Board Director*

Wagner introduced undergraduate student Rachel Larson, who provided a PowerPoint presentation about the Bronco Force program:

[http://www.wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2017/Supply\\_Chain-Rachel%20Larson.4-6-17.pdf](http://www.wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2017/Supply_Chain-Rachel%20Larson.4-6-17.pdf)

#### *Ad Hoc General Education Design Committee Report – Mervyn Elliott, Chair*

Elliott reported that the Logistics Committee has started working on developing a plan which will be presented to the Senate at a later date. Three working groups (transfer/contemporary students, accreditation, and writing) have started meeting, and several others will be formed once MOA-17/05 is approved by the Senate. The design supports the University's three pillars and provides a well-rounded liberal arts education. The Foundation Level skills defined are intellectual skills. At the March Faculty Senate meeting, team teaching was discussed. Elliott indicated that it is not required but there exists an opportunity to incorporate team teaching in order to offer students exposure to multiple perspectives of a subject. There are many ways of providing team teaching. Sustainability and Diversity & Inclusion is encouraged across the proposed curriculum. Elliott thanked the Design Committee and acknowledged those members who have continued on to the Logistics Committee. Lynde-Recchia provided a PowerPoint on possible student pathways through the proposed WMU Essential Studies model:

[http://www.wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2017/GenEd\\_Student-Pathways.4-6-17pptx.pdf](http://www.wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2017/GenEd_Student-Pathways.4-6-17pptx.pdf)

Discussion included the following:

- It was questioned if a transfer student could get out of taking any general education courses at WMU. Reinhold noted that it is a possibility under the current curriculum, but it has yet to be determined by the Logistics Committee how that will be managed under the proposed curriculum.

### **PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC CONCERNS**

Concern was expressed about the late distribution of Graduate Assistantship offer letters. Ayers noted that Dean Susan Stapleton was not in attendance but that the question would be forwarded to her.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Senate will meet next on 11 May 2017, in room 4010 Health and Human Services. The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Sue Brodasky and Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office