

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE**

**PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes of 19 April 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 Member Present: Suzie Nagle, Dean of Students (substitute for Nicole Albee)

Advisory Member Absent: Kathy Mitchell, Ombudsman

Guests: Tim Greene, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Staff: Sue Brodasky

The meeting was called to order by Chair Eversole at 12:30 p.m.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

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

Approval of 15 February 2017 Minutes

A motion was made by Jellies, seconded by Linn, to approve the 15 February 2017 minutes as provided. Motion carried.

Chairs Remarks – Eversole

Eversole's comments covered:

- Welcome and introductions were made.
- This is the last committee meeting of this academic year
- Jellies continues to research policies to determine any discrepancies for discussion in the fall
- Brodasky continues to research Academic Integrity Committee membership participation for discussion in the fall.

ACTION / INFORMATION ITEMS

Student Misconduct Appeal Process

MOA-15/01: Revised Graduate Program Dismissal Appeals Policy

MOA-16/03: Revised Undergraduate Program Dismissal Appeals Policy

Jellies gave history of the memoranda where an issue had been brought before PCC from a specific department had identified a loophole in the policy. PCC edited the policy and forwarded it to the Executive Board. It later became known that the MOA covered only the graduate catalog and the same needed to be applied to the undergraduate catalog. Both MOAs were put forwarded to the Senate by the EB with language crafted by General Counsel. Both MOAs passed the Senate but were disapproved by the provost. Greene acknowledged the disapproval. He stated that over several years he has been asking the EB to take

up the issue of a grade sanction appeal process for students who accept or are found responsible for academic misconduct. Greene provided several examples. He is not in favor of the current policy that does not allow an appeal. Eversole provided a similar example of a faculty member who was not afforded an appeal when a student was found not responsible of academic misconduct. He went on to report that in this recent example when general counsel was consulted and he advised that the same body may not be used to hear appeals but rather the next higher level of administration would have to hear the appeal. Carrick Craig had also explained that at any time a new appeals process would be created every, and all, past students and faculty would have to be allowed to retroactively appeal their prior decisions. Discussion was held regarding what body would be logical to hear an appeal.

Eversole and Jellies reported that the PCC had been researching and discussing the issue of appeals all academic year. It was noted that this concern applied to approximately five students per year. The committee had determined that if appeals were allowed a set of criteria would have to be established which indicates where something in the processes was not done correctly. The committee agrees that such appeals would have to be heard by the Provost or his staff. Discussion was held.

Greene agreed to reconsider the two MOAs if language was added to allow departments to readmit a student that was dismissed due to a grade sanction because of academic misconduct. Jellies will take this request to the EB for consideration.

OTHER

Nagle raised an issue of appeal as a sanction of conduct. Because it was not a suspension or expulsion, there is one level of appeal. The code allows a three-faculty panel to review and make a determination. Typically, the panel does not want to make judgements for another program, which becomes an issue without a decision being determined. Discussion was held. Eversole noted that with only two recent cases, the committee would not want to create a new policy.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m. by Chair Eversole.

Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator