

Unit Communication Notes
Faculty Senate Meeting
October 5, 2017

Thanks to Vice President *pro tempore* Sharon Carlson for her contribution to these notes

These notes are informal communications provided as a convenience for Senators and others to aid in their own communications in a timely manner. They are not intended as a substitute for meeting minutes and hold no more value, or standing, than an individual's recollection of events. The notes should not be republished, attributed or posted, and are intended to be used only to help Senators and others communicate with their constituencies in a timely fashion, in addition to a Senator's own recollections and notes. Information contained in these notes should be considered as provisional and conditional and subservient to eventual approval of formal minutes by the Senate.

Senate Executive Board Report (Suzan Ayers, Faculty Senate President)

-On behalf of the Faculty Senate, President Ayers welcomed President Montgomery and Interim Provost Stapleton.

-The Faculty Senate Executive Board has accepted resignation of Jellies as Vice President *pro tempore* and has appointed Carlson as Vice President *pro tempore*. Jellies has been appointed as a Director of the Faculty Senate Executive Board.

-Ayers also welcomed a new student employee to the Faculty Senate office, Molly Muhs.

-Ayers welcomed new WSA President Chiante' Lymon and Vice President Logan Brown.

-Ayers encouraged attendance at the Fall Convocation tomorrow in support of our colleagues being recognized for outstanding achievement in teaching, scholarship, and service.

-Ayers and Carlson will continue the practice of preparing and circulating notes from the Faculty Senate meetings to facilitate Senators' communication with their respective units.

-New Senators and other year-long substitutes were welcomed:

- Tim Chapman, Industrial and Entrepreneurial Engineering and Engineering Management
- Meghan Cupka, Sindecuse Health Center Counseling Services
- Lisa DeChano-Cook, Geography
- Decker Hains, Representative-at-Large
- Dae Kim, Blindness and Low Vision Studies
- Elke Schoffers, Chemistry
- Captain Austin Tazzia, Military Science and Leadership
- Phillip Vander Weg, Emeriti Council

-Several retired and former faculty members passed away since the conclusion of the 2016-17 Faculty Senate:

- Dina Bangdel, Art
- Barbara Barton, Social Work
- Claire Callan, Occupational Therapy
- David Chaplin, Sociology
- George Dales, Health, Physical Education, & Recreation, and Track and Field and Cross Country Coach
- Kathleen McHugh Drzick, English

- Herbert "Herb" Ellinger, Transportation Technology
- George "Stewart" Johnson, Mechanical Engineering
- Shirley Ann Lukens, Occupational Therapy
- Daniel Stufflebeam, Educational Leadership, Research & Technology and Founder of the Evaluation Center
- Darrell Wright, Social Work

-Memorandum of Action- 17/04: Revision to Advising Directors General Education Substitution Authority has been approved by the administration.

-The Ad Hoc General Education Logistics Committee will provide regular updates. Please attend two sessions on **October 20 and 27 from 8:30 to 11:30 in the Bernhard Center** to identify criteria for the approved learning outcomes.

-Office of Faculty Development will present a workshop co-sponsored by the Faculty Senate and the AAUP. This was motivated by the events in Charlottesville. Register on the OFD website: <http://www.wmich.edu/facultydevelopment/programs/teaching-inclusivity-series>

-Ayers provided brief updates from the various councils and committees:

- *Campus Planning and Finance Council* is looking at instruction and campus facilities.
- *Extended University Programs Council* is implementing many EUP initiatives including regional, online and dual enrollment.
- *Graduate Studies Council* is reviewing graduate curriculum revisions and graduate policies.
- *International Education Council* is developing a group to improve integration of international students into campus life.
- *Research Policies Council* will work with the Vice President of Research to review policies and work to update policies. It will also identify obstacles to research.
- *Undergraduate Studies Council* will investigate service learning designations in classes and will consider proposals for new undergraduate programs.
- *Committee to Oversee General Education* will continue the review courses, which include the baccalaureate writing to insure they meet guidelines.
- *Transfer of Credit Committee* will examine transfer credit guides and policies.

-Please pay Faculty Senate fees for the year. They are **\$20** and defray costs of meetings. If every faculty member paid \$20, it would go a long way toward the Faculty Senate becoming self-sustaining.

President Montgomery Remarks

-Relationship Building: President Montgomery reported that 66 days into his presidency he has met with several on and off campus groups and alumni. He considers the Faculty Senate meetings as an important space to share information and consider issues.

-Fall Convocation: Begins Friday, October 6 in the morning with the Teaching and Learning Bash in the Bernhard Center. It will be followed by the annual Fall Convocation awards ceremony at 11:00 a.m. Thirteen faculty and staff will be honored this year. Please attend and honor those receiving awards.

-President Montgomery's goal for Western Michigan University is to make this institution a University of Choice for students, faculty, staff and the communities we serve. His focus is improving outcomes, specifically

retention and graduation rates. WMU Essential Studies is going to be a significant part of the mix. He will be asking for campus-wide input on how to move forward while staying true to our motto, "That All May Learn."

-Provost search: President Montgomery has seated the faculty-led search committee for a new Provost and established an ambitious timeline with the goal of having a Provost on board for a July 1, 2018 start date. The members of the search committee include:

- John Jellies (Chair), professor, Biological Sciences
- Osama Abudayyeh, chair, Department of Civil and Construction Engineering
- Andrea Beach, professor, Department of Educational Leadership, Research, and Technology
- James Cousins, associate dean, College of Arts and Sciences
- Tomika Griffin-Brown, assistant director of advising, Haworth College of Business
- Dan Guyette, dean, College of Fine Arts
- Chansheng He, professor, Department of Geography
- Katherine Joslin, professor, Department of English
- Mary Lagerwey, director, Bronson School of Nursing
- Chianté Lymon, president, Western Student Association
- Jennifer Palthe, professor, Department of Management
- Amaury Pineda, president, Graduate Student Association
- Bill Rantz, interim chair, Department of Chemistry
- Martha Warfield, vice president, Diversity and Inclusion

-Grants and Research: Western has recently received the largest single research grant ever; a \$12.5 million award to *Patricia Reeves and Jianping Shen* in Educational Leadership, Research and Technology. The grant is from the U.S. Department of Education for their "High Impact Leadership for School Renewal Project." Their award is part of an amazing run of good research news over the past few weeks, in which we've seen more than \$24 million in new grants this year.

Among the recipients are

- *Selena Protacio, Virginia David, Hsiao-Chin and Susan Piazza* in Special Education and Literacy Studies. They are receiving \$2.6 million also from the Department of Education
- *Ann Chapleau* in occupational therapy and *Jennifer Harrison* in Social Work have been awarded \$1.8 million from the Health Resources and Services Administration
- *Mary Ann Stark* in nursing has garnered \$1.9 million from the Department of Health and Human Services. Please congratulate them when you see them and ask them about their research. They have gotten us off to a great start this academic year.

Question for President Montgomery:

Q: WMU has been recognized in several national rankings. This year we are tied with CMU. Is this something we should be concerned about?

A: The rankings matter because parents, counselors, and students look at them. We need to pay attention to these rankings but we also need to be aware of how institutions have increased their place in the ranking. Several institutions have done this by increasing their student admit criteria. They take a second set of students and admit them in the spring. It results in what appears to be more selective admissions. If we improved our 6-year graduation rate, that would be significant. Our rate at 9 or 10 years is still only 60%. Doing what is right will move us up.

Interim Provost Susan Stapleton Remarks

-Interim Provost Stapleton's emphasis will be on retention. Faculty and staff engagement needs to start on day one and toward that goal, administrators, faculty, and staff helped student families unload and move into

residence halls. As provost, she is going to put some money behind it. In addition, Stapleton has started an incentive program for engagement; she has a large silver horsehead figure (bronco) and the unit 'winning' randomly selected engagement challenges will hold onto the figure and get cookies for their unit until the next challenge is mysteriously identified. Stapleton acknowledged the record grants awards to WMU. Stapleton was asked to address a couple of concerns shared with the Executive Board:

Registrar's Notes October 2. Western Michigan University's compliance with the Higher Learning Commission in terms of faculty credentials requires the instructional units deliver content by qualified faculty. See the Institutional Effectiveness website for more information about HLC (<http://www.wmich.edu/effectiveness/accreditation>). Mandated compliance with instructor credentials began 1 September 2017.

Email from Nancy Mansberger, Director, Academic Collective Bargaining, about PARS. By AAUP Agreement, the Professional Activity Report (PAR) is the format for reporting professional activities. WMU has adopted the Faculty Activity Reporting System (FARS) as a single convenient location to report professional achievements. Trainings have been held this fall and additional support is available at: <http://wmich.edu/institutionalresearch/fars>. **The standard PAR due date of October 16 remains the same now using FARS.** Some information has been automatically loaded (i.e., courses and scholarly works from WMU systems) that just needs to be verified.

A Curriculum Vitae is required. Stapleton asked faculty to use FARS for the 5-year abbreviated CV required in the first year of each new AAUP contract. **The CV is due on December 1.** This new system should facilitate faculty's progress through the promotion and tenure process.

Questions for Interim Provost Stapleton included the following:

Q: According to HLC, what does this mean for Faculty Specialists without terminal degrees?

A: Faculty Specialists and adjuncts provide opportunities for students and programs. Many of these faculty have career and other substantial experience to bring into the classroom.

Q: Who won the first horsehead award?

A: The College of Aviation had the most people involved in move-in day participation.

ACTION ITEM

President Ayers reviewed Council elections. There was a unanimous vote of approval for unopposed council vacancies.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Faculty Senate Vice President Special Election – President Ayers announced there will be a special election to complete the term of the Faculty Senate Vice President through May 2018. Persons must have served one year as elected member of this or the preceding two Senates. Nominating petitions are available from the Senate Staff tonight or the Senate office. The nomination deadline is Tuesday, October 24.

Ad Hoc Generation Education Logistics Committee Update – President Ayers reported the recently-mailed postcard contained a typo. The WMU Essential Studies policy has already been approved so we are not creating new policy. The indicated actions are related to amending the policy outlined in MOA-17/05.

Logistics Committee chair Mervyn Elliott who provided an overview of the process. Elliott said that we are on track and meeting deadlines. He also reported on a recent trip to Bowling Green State University (BGSU) where

members of the Logistics Committee learned about the implementation of their new general education curriculum. BGSU is in its third year of implementation. Faculty involvement is critical and is the step promised as the key role for faculty to play in the development of the new WES curriculum. Please plan to attend the October 20 session to develop criteria for the approved student learning outcomes.

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC CONCERNS

President Ayers thanked the AAUP and WMU bargaining teams for their work in getting a new contract.

Q: pride and gratitude were expressed for recent Faculty Senate and faculty actions including an affirmative vote to support DACA.

Bret Wagner was acknowledged for creating a study area in the Haworth College of Business to honor a deceased student (<https://www.facebook.com/wwmtnews/videos/10155021396201452/>).

A request was made that the University consider making the senior flu vaccine available in the future as it offers extra protection for older adults.

Displeasure was expressed about the new campus signage and information sought about why the letters were in white instead of gold.

A: Jan Van Der Kley, Vice President, Business and Finance noted that white is more visible.

Q: Faculty in the College of Health and Human Services are concerned about having to leave campus early on two days due to home football games. This requirement results in the loss of two instructional meetings. Relocating is difficult because these classes use lab spaces with hospital beds and other equipment.

A: Van Der Kley noted that this was a decision made by the College and not Parking Services, Public Safety, or the Athletics Planning Team. Concerns will be forwarded to Interim Provost Dr. Stapleton.

Q: The Chemistry department is down to 10 faculty. How can we be a viable research university without an adequate Chemistry faculty? We need a plan.

A: This concern will be forwarded to the College of Arts and Sciences Dean, Carla Koretsky.

Q: Concern was expressed that the Geography Department had not been sought for counsel, as wayfinding is one of its primary professional skill sets.

Signs at Engineering Campus and others have not been marked.

A: Van Der Kley reported that not all of the signs have been completed. Parkview Campus still needs to be changed. Concerning complaints about the discontinuation of brass lettering, this required changes because the signs continued to be vandalized regardless of many efforts to prevent this. The goal of the wayfinding project was to make it easier for guests and visitors to make their way around campus.

A: This concern will be forwarded to the Campus Planning and Finance Council.

Q: WMU has a prominent place in Art Prize. The WMU venue has been lauded as a choice venue. Hours have been extended to allow more visitors to view the art. The artist displaying the work *Red Dirt Rug Monument* at the WMU venue is a finalist in jurors' choice and the popular vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Next meeting date: Thursday, 2 November 2017, Bernhard Center, Rooms 208-209