

Unit Communication Notes
Faculty Senate Meeting
November 2, 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)

-President Ayers recognized and welcomed two new Senators:

- Sandra Glista, Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences
- Eva Copija, Center for English Language and Culture for International Students.

New Senators are responsible to report on Senate meetings to home departments/units. Notes will be circulated to support this effort no later than next Monday.

-Ayers acknowledged the passing of:

- Meshulam Groper, professor emeritus of mechanical and aeronautical engineering
- Martin Gingerich, professor emeritus of English
- WMU Medical School Dean Hal Jensen's wife Polly

-Thank you to the faculty who participated in the WMU Essential Studies workshops in October.

-The Office of Faculty Development, Faculty Senate, and AAUP workshop on Anti-Racist Pedagogies was held on October 20. President Montgomery's late August statement about our commitment to diversity and inclusion, followed by this impressively attended workshop, dialogue has begun about additional ways to facilitate conversations about race and how to address issues like those witnessed in Charlottesville. If you have suggestions about productive ways forward on this topic, please feel free to reach out to Faculty Senate President Ayers.

-Last week a campus-wide Student Success Summit, co-sponsored by the Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies and the Center for Research on Instructional Change in Postsecondary Education (CRICPE), brought national expert Dr. Jillian Kenzie to campus. This event addressed WMU's National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) data and offered ways to frame our success and challenges moving forward. Thank you, Drs. Dave Reinhold, Andrea Beach, and Charles Henderson for a motivating day of data and collaboration emphasizing student success and retention.

-WMU has been a tobacco free campus for three years now. While we got off to a strong start, there continue to be hot spots around campus where tobacco use remains a concern. The Western Student Association has re-engaged the administration around this topic and will be sponsoring a

video contest to engage students in the messaging that tobacco use is still a violation of University policy.

-Midterm grades were submitted for 27% of sections offered this semester. With grades submitted in 34% of their sections, the Haworth College of Business had the highest percentage of midterm grades reported. Thank you to all instructors who took the time to submit grades to help support this important retention initiative. While 3,238 undergraduate students did not have a midterm grade, many were probably aware of their grades due to the constant availability of the Elearning grade book. Ayers requested that midterm grades be entered on GoWMU because it helps advisors to help students be successful. While students and instructors can see Elearning grade books, student support staff cannot, so timely intervention is not possible without the submission of midterm grades.

-Ayers provided brief council and committee updates.

- *Campus Planning and Finance Council* is developing an information session for presentation to the Senate.
- *Extended University Programs Council* is in the process of selecting its Presidential Scholar awardee and recommending faculty to be recognized for their outstanding off campus/online endeavors.
- *Graduate Studies Council* has been reviewing graduate level curriculum proposals and identifying potential policy revisions to better support graduate student success.
- *International Education Council* is promoting comprehensive internationalization.
- *Research Policies Council* is reviewing policies about who can serve as Primary Investigator/Co-PI on grants, updating the Intellectual Property policy, and beginning a survey of research equipment and instrumentation on campus to evaluate needs and best use.
- *Committee to Oversee General Education* plans to work with the ad hoc WMU Essential Studies Logistics group to facilitate effective implementation of the new curriculum.
- *Transfer of Credit Committee* is working on clear definitions for transfer credit to help faculty make informed decisions on how to award credits for transfer students.

-Ayers congratulated the College of Education and Human Development for having the highest number of faculty and staff in attendance at the Fall Convocation Teaching and Learning Bash and as a result being presented with the Provost's Student Engagement Award.

President Montgomery Remarks

President Montgomery reported that Betty Kocher, former Secretary to the Board of Trustees, died at the age of 84. She served the University for over 42 years and had worked with every president except for Dwight Waldo. Announcements will be made as arrangements become known.

-Transformational Initiative: applications were due yesterday. There were several themes and much enthusiasm. Over 40 proposals have been received and awardees will be identified in early 2018.

-Grant funding: Since July 1, WMU has received more than \$24 million dollars in new federal funding. Last year, the figure was \$27 million for the entire year. Recent awards have included:

- *Andrea Beach* in Educational Leadership, Research, and Technology and *Charles Henderson*, Director, Mallinson Institute, were awarded an NSF grant for over \$900,000 as part of their work in the Center for Research on Instructional Change in Postsecondary Education.
- *Mary Ann Stark* received a \$2 million grant to work with future nurses and increase the number of underrepresented populations in the field of nursing.

-Provost Search: President Montgomery met with and charged the committee, chaired by John Jellies. A search firm will be used and the campus community will be asked to identify the desired attributes of our next provost. Airport interviews will occur in early 2018. Three to four candidates will come to WMU to engage in an open conversation with the campus community.

-Four of the Vice President for Research candidates visited campus. President Montgomery will soon meet with the search committee to get recommendations.

-Recruitment efforts are going very well:

- applications are 20.6% ahead of this time last year
- transfer applications are up 30%
- total out of state applications are up 70%

-President Montgomery singled out some people of particular note:

- *Michael Braun*, Spanish, has been named the Michigan World Language Association Barbara Ort Smith awardee. This is the first time a WMU faculty member has received this award.
- *Linda Borish*, History, was an invited speaker in China and presenting two lectures at an international sport history conference.
- *Jennifer Machiorlatti*, Communication, was selected to participate in the Television Academy Foundation's 2017 Faculty Seminar Program where she will learn about innovations in television programming.
- *Elizabeth Palmer*, Ph.D. student in Geosciences is working as part of a California-based, NASA-funded project examining ground-ice on asteroids.

The WMU Board of Trustees, Alumni Board, and Foundation Board had an inaugural meeting to discuss serving as ambassadors and ways to support a capital campaign.

Question for President Montgomery:

Q: Are there additional opportunities to highlight faculty accomplishments?

A: Systematic collection of faculty, staff and student accomplishments would facilitate including these events in the Points of Pride. Montgomery likes to have them handy for conversations about WMU. He mentioned looking into ways we can centralize such a communication mechanism.

Q: How many awards will be made for the Transformational Initiative?

A: It is still too early in the process, as the scope of funding requested varies across proposals.

Q: Will there be somebody looking at bringing together smaller or similar proposals.

A: Yes, that will be part of the process. There may be some proposals that can be synthesized in some way, and/or funded in other ways. This is being considered as a multi-year effort, so this will not be the only opportunity for support.

James Gilchrist, Vice Provost for Budget and Personnel Remarks

Interim Provost Stapleton is in Washington D.C. for a grant meeting.

-Changes to the Distributive Computing Plan. Every student pays an enrollment fee that includes a technology fee. This money, historically used to purchase desktop computers, is distributed to academic colleges where Deans control how this money is spent as long as it is used to support student learning. They are being encouraged to purchase hardware technology or software to enhance student learning. For an example, the College of Health and Human Services purchased a virtual cadaver system. It allows students to work with a 3D image of a cadaver and do virtual dissections.

-The Haworth College of Business Dean Search committee has scheduled four finalists for campus visits:

- Timothy Greenlee, Miami University
- Cathy DuBois, Kent State
- Wesley Randall, University of North Texas
- Satish Deshpande, interim dean at HCoB

Information on the presentations is located at: <https://www.wmich.edu/news/2017/11/43604>

-Gilchrist congratulated the faculty on the inaugural use of the Faculty Activity Reporting System (FARS); 91.3% of the faculty submitted Professional Activity Reports using the new online system this fall. The success of this transition is credited to Dr. Fen Yu and the committee of faculty, department chairs, and associate deans who advised on the process.

-The 2017-20 AAUP contract includes a new schedule for sabbatical leave review. Under this new schedule, the proposal deadline will now be December 16. Recommendations will go to the Board of Trustees and be announced early next year.

Question for Vice Provost Gilchrist:

Q: Is there any place where all of the licensed software on campus are listed?

A: Contact Tom Wolf for assistance. If the software was reviewed through central IT, they will have a record of it. They have also made accommodations to put software on computers in the labs which are open 24 hours.

Q: Could you give us an idea on how the budget is going in Academic Affairs?

A: Budget implementation was delayed due to the AAUP contract being settled in September, but all allocations should have hit funds this week.

ACTION ITEM

Faculty Senate Vice President Special Election – One nominating petition was received from Dr. Sharon Carlson, professor University Libraries. No nominations came from the floor, so the ballot and Dr. Carlson’s biographical information will be mailed to faculty November 6. The election will conclude November 20.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Real Talk Diversity Series (Tiffany White, director of operations, Diversity and Inclusion, and Jerrica Solomon, student, Interdisciplinary Health)

The series is open to the campus and greater Kalamazoo community. Topics for presentations and activities are generated as a result of conversations on campus and around the region. Faculty may bring entire classes to the Trimpe building for sessions, which may include up to 130 people. This series dovetails with the Signature program and other existing programs on campus. The speakers provided examples of Real Talks from the past and comments from past participants. For information on upcoming events, see: wmich.edu/diversity/events.

“Our Space” is a student-centered, all-inclusive, equal access resource room and lounge in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion designed by students for students to embrace differences and commonalities and bring people together for a variety of activities. Hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. See www.wmich.edu/diversity/center/our-space for additional information.

Ad Hoc Generation Education Logistics Committee Update (Mervyn Elliott, Chair)

-An overview of the workshops on October 20 and October 27 was provided. Attendance was high, with 55 attending the October 20 workshop and 40 attending the October 27 session. It really put the faculty stamp on the learning outcomes.

-The results of this faculty work will be given to a small committee (David Reinhold, Staci Perryman-Clark, and Sarah Summy) to identify traits and rubrics and look for structural consistency.

-Rubrics will be shared for faculty feedback.

-Next steps involve working on the program and procedures document.

Elliott is pleased that WMU faculty have put their stamp on this and the progress to date.

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC CONCERNS

Q: A faculty member shared concerns last spring in the same venue about disparities in faculty understanding how to handle hearing impaired versus visually impaired students. This individual thanked the administration for adding staffing to Disability Student Services. It was suggested that changes might be needed in DSS processes relative to how students are accommodated.

A: This concern will be shared with Vice President Diane Anderson.

Q: The Study in the States program in Lee Honors College was described. This has involved three or four courses in a year, which were approved for general education credit. There continue to be some new courses offered every year, the newer of which have not been approved due to

the moratorium on new general education courses. He encouraged faculty senators and executive board to reconsider this moratorium, especially for this particular type of class.

A: The Executive Board has already rendered a decision on this, but will consider again.

Q: The price of textbooks in WMU's bookstore was discussed. Some books available through both Amazon and Follett and price differences may be a couple hundred dollars.

Q: This concern will be forwarded to Vice President Jan Van Der Kley.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Next meeting date: Thursday, 7 December 2017, Bernhard Center, Rooms 208-209