

Unit Communication Notes
Faculty Senate Meeting
April 6, 2017

Thanks to Director 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)

-One new Senator was welcomed:

- Zelkja Vidic, from Human Performance & Health Education

-Two deaths were noted:

- 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 March 22 and 23 to select the finalists for the Board of Trustees consideration as our ninth president. Three candidates were presented to the Board last week and the Board has begun their vetting process to select WMU's next President. The official announcement is slated to be made as soon as a contract has been signed, possibly in the next two weeks. Please refer to the search website for updates (<http://wmich.edu/presidentialsearch/>).

-The continuation of Home Pages will cost the university \$40,000 per year, and a one-time \$100,000 update fee, to maintain the 281 faculty and emeriti home pages as they are.

-The Desire To Learn (D2L) system will be undergoing an upgrade effective Fall 2017. Faculty who use D2L may obtain training on the minor updates either online or via individual training as needed. Please contact OIT for more information.

President Dunn Remarks

-Budget update - The Governor, House and Senate have all made recommendation for budget increases, but Congress will resolve this by early June. Dunn provided testimony in Lansing and he reminded legislators that we are being asked to compare WMU to other Carnegie classification peers. WMU's peers include fewer than 90 institutions and the resources provided to each of these institutions are not identical.

-Commencement - There will be four ceremonies on April 29: 9 a.m. Aviation/HCoB, 12:30 p.m. Engineering/Health and Human Services, 4 p.m. Education & Human Development/Fine Arts/EUP, and 7:30 p.m. Arts and Sciences. Governor Snyder will be at the 9 a.m. ceremony. He is trying to attend two commencements a year at each of the public institutions. Dr. Antonio Flores will be presented with an honorary doctorate of humane letters at the Arts and Sciences ceremony. Flores is a graduate of WMU and is president and chief executive officer of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.

-The Dunn farewell tour involved 14 different stops. It went very well and Dunn has met with many alumni who have not been to campus in years. Videos shared during the tour highlight some of the positive changes. A number of gifts were made to the University during the tour. President Dunn complimented the Development team for putting together a great event.

-Bronco Buds. This program involves 6th graders visiting WMU. It is in its 9th year and introduces KPS to WMU.

-Representative Upton is meeting with international students Friday 4/7/17.

-Dunn also commented favorably on the International Festival, Presidential Scholars, Geography Bee ceremony and the Caesar Chavez celebration.

-Dunn complemented the leadership of WSA and GSA.

Questions for President Dunn included the following:

Are there target tuition numbers for WMU? WMU is a very good buy. We can elect to not follow the State's tuition guidelines. We would lose state funding and capital improvement funds for three years. Dunn has approached Governor Snyder and asked him to give full decision-making authority to the individuals he has designated as WMU Board of Trustee members.

Provost Dr. Timothy Greene Remarks

- Associate Provost for Haenicke Institute for Global Education Search Update - There are some really outstanding candidates. Ten will be selected for airport interviews next week.

- Haworth College of Business Dean Search Update - The search firm has identified another group of candidates. Airport interviews (conducted at WMU's Beltline campus in Grand Rapids) will be conducted in the next two weeks.

- Sabbatical workshops - Associate Dean Keith Hearit will be leading one or two workshops in conjunction with WMU AAUP. Applications are due 9/15/17.

- Promotion and tenure workshops - These will be offered in conjunction with AAUP in late May and in the fall semester.

- Enrollment update:

Domestic first year *up 6.3%* International first year *down 47%* (106 students)

Domestic transfers *up 6.1%* International transfers *up 42.2%* (27 students)

A number of doctoral and master's applications are still "in process." He asked departments to look at them even if they are incomplete and make a decision.

Domestic doctoral students are *down 12%* (13) International doctoral students *down 9.4%* (10)

Domestic masters *down 17.5%* (96) in-process up 221 International masters *down 5.5%* (21) in-process down 238

-Summer I enrollments are a little weak this year; the better economy tends to motivate students to work during the summer.

-Departmental Honors and Awards. Thank you to the faculty who attend these events. These are very special for the students being honored and their families.

-Humanities for Everyone - This program involves faculty voluntarily providing introductory short courses in the humanities to non-traditional audiences. Some of the students have continued to complete bachelor's degrees at WMU.

ACTION ITEM

MOA-17/03: Creation of the Block Transfer of Military Credit Policy (Dave Reinhold, Chair, Transfer of Credit Committee) **APPROVED**

MOA-17/01: Naming of the Revised General Education Curriculum (Sarah Summy, Member/Senator, *Ad Hoc* General Education Design Committee) **APPROVED**

First Reading (no action tonight), MOA-17/05: Revision of WMU General Education Curriculum (Sarah Summy, Member/Senator, *Ad Hoc* General Education Design Committee)

Discussion for first reading included:

There were concerns about learning outcomes that have been addressed by the implementation committee. Instructors will be able to select the few number of learning outcomes their course will likely address.

Q: Why is critical thinking identified as coursework only in the Arts and Humanities?

A: Critical thinking will be covered in many classes by most programs/majors. It was always intended that there would be a first year humanities class. This will provide departments the opportunity to develop some courses. It is not supposed to be restrictive.

Q: Why are the other three course categories in Foundations not discipline specific?

A: Critical thinking will be addressed in many, if not most, classes. It may be more easily assessed in the first and second years.

There was a comment about possible differences in how faculty and students will interpret the plan.

Q: How will courses relate? What about sustainability? What about global and local emphases?

Q: What about the overlap of design and the implementation? Will there be flexibility?

A: Yes, there has to be flexibility. One example is that of high-credit hour programs. The intent is that everybody should be able to fit in this program. The Provost has also agreed to help resource this. The design and implementation have been coordinated to simultaneously address some of these issues.

Q: Why was the Local and National Perspectives course category separated from the Global Perspectives course category in the Connections Level?

A: By maintaining two separate categories, we ensure that all students have coursework in global content. Courses under the Local and National Perspectives category may also include some global content, but not necessarily.

Q: Why are the Management Department or other departments in the Haworth College of Business not identified by name in the model?

A: Many departments are not mentioned explicitly by name but are included in the details of the plan. In addition, where a class may fit (in which course category) is the most important factor; being able to find a place your class(es) fit and can address learning outcomes is key.

Q: Programs in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the Bronson School of Nursing expressed concern about “only six hours of courses in the major/minor to be approved as Essential Studies courses.”

A: The model explicitly states, “Special exemptions may be made in specific high credit-hour programs.” In addition, the logistics of this are part of the implementation process in which faculty are encouraged to participate.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Western Student Association Update (Chiante’ Lymon, newly-elected President and Logan Brown, newly-elected Vice President)

Lymon provided a PowerPoint (<http://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2017/WSA-Presentation.4-6-17.pdf>) with highlights of the WSA’s activities for the last year.

Bronco Showcase (Bret Wagner, Executive Board Director and Rachel Larson, Haworth College of Business)
Wagner introduced Larson who provided a presentation

(http://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2017/Supply_Chain-Rachel%20Larson.4-6-17.pdf) on the student-

led Bronco Force consulting consortium. This provides students the opportunity to interact with businesses to solve real-world corporate problems.

General Education (Mervyn Elliott, Chair and Molly Lynde-Recchia, Vice Chair, *Ad Hoc* General Education Design Committee)

The Faculty Senate mandated a change in the existing general education curriculum via MOA-16/06. The *Ad Hoc* General Education Design Committee has been engaged since the fall and has prepared a report that should be shared with colleagues: <http://www.wmich.edu/facultysenate/committees/adhocgenededesigncmt>.

The focus of this revision is our students and the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in today's world. Many of the concerns faculty have expressed relate to logistical considerations. The *Ad Hoc* General Education Logistics Committee has begun the campus-wide conversations about things that are not model-dependent, like writing, transfer/contemporary students and accreditation.

The Dean's Circle groups were developed to identify college-specific concerns and provide input on the process, design, and logistical considerations. The Design committee has responded to a few of those groups to correct some mistaken assumptions. Volunteers are needed to work on the expert panels that will begin work to develop learning outcomes for each course category.

Elliott reported that the intent is to provide students the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in a changing world. Essential Studies will replace the current general education requirements.

Lynde-Rechia provided an overview on three hypothetical students as case studies for some possible ways diverse students may matriculate through the Essential Studies program (http://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2017/GenEd_Student-Pathways.4-6-17pptx.pdf). There are multiple ways to advance through the program and multiple ways to incorporate the Signature Program.

Professional and Academic Concerns

-Assistantship Offers to Graduate Students - There was a concern raised about assistantship offers made to graduate students, as the letters were mailed very late this year. President Ayers reported that Dean Stapleton is out of town but Ayers will pass this along to Stapleton who can address it when she returns.

The May 11 (**not May 4**) meeting will be held in room **4010 in the College of Health and Human Services**.

The May meeting is the second Thursday of the month due to the break between spring and summer sessions.