

Unit Communication Notes
Special Faculty Senate Meeting
January 12, 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.

The focus of this special meeting was to present a first draft of the proposed new general education model and solicit feedback.

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

-Healing thoughts requested for Health and Human Services Dean Earlie Washington and Vice President for Business and Finance Jan Van Der Kley.

-Stacie Fruth, Professor and new Director and Founding Chair of our Physical Therapy department was introduced.

-Ballots were mailed to departments with Senators whose terms are expiring. These and any at-large nominations are due to the Faculty Senate office no later than January 19. Presidential Scholar nominations are due to the Faculty Senate office by January 23.

-Parker Executive Search released the presidential profile on December 12. There has been a good response. Senators were reminded to nominate and recommend viable candidates and encourage colleagues to do the same. The Presidential Search website continues to be updated (<http://wmich.edu/presidentialsearch/>).

President John Dunn Remarks

-The Cotton Bowl was a first rate experience involving the players, band, and cheer team. The Bronco Stampede included 3,000 people and in the end there were more than could be accommodated.

-Coach PJ Fleck is going to the University of Minnesota. We wish him well as he continues his career. Athletics Director Kathy Beauregard is moving forward with finding the next coach.

-Governor Snyder has appointed two new trustees, Ron Kitchens and Shani Penn. Penn has been a member of the Snyder administration. They will be sworn in on Monday, January 23 before the January board meeting. They replace James Hettinger and Mary Asmonga-Knapp.

-Post graduate success numbers are out. WMU is looking at graduates three months out and the data on 75% of the graduates reveal:

-92% of those graduates are defined as being actively engaged in the next step of their professional career

-71% are employed full time

-14% are in graduate school

-15% are employed less than full time

-1% are in the military

-76% live in the state of Michigan. The median range of salaries is around \$45,000.

-Dunn recognized Jacqueline Eng in Anthropology who appeared on NOVA on PBS *Secrets of the Sky Tombs* focusing on ancient DNA and materials found in Tibet.

-Fahad Saeed in Computer Science has been recognized as a senior member in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE; http://www.ieee.org/index.html?WT.mc_id=mn_ieee).

Provost Timothy Greene Remarks

-Gary Bishof is the new Lee Honors College Dean.

-Haworth College of Business Dean Search is in the final stages. There is a candidate returning to campus with spouse to discuss details.

-Wolfgang Schlör, Associate Provost for the Haenicke Institute for Global Education, is moving to Georgia State University. A search committee, chaired by Engineering and Applied Sciences Dean Houssam A. Toutanji, has been formed with the goal of having a finalist by May.

-Ann Tyler, Associate Dean of College of Health and Human Services, will serve as acting dean while Dean Earlie Washington is out on medical leave.

Ad Hoc General Education Design Committee

President Ayers thanked the committee and acknowledged the members' dedicated efforts and hard work (<http://www.wmich.edu/facultysenate/committees/adhocgeneddesigncmt>). Chair Mervyn Elliott shared the first draft that has been the result of this now four-year process originating from the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on General Education charged in 2013 (http://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2017/GenEd-Model.DRAFT_01-12-17.pdf). There is additional information and excerpts from tonight's feedback on the Elearning in the discussion boards (<https://elearning.wmich.edu/d21/home/258147>). Chair Elliott went over the next steps (<http://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2017/GenEd-Presentation.01-12-17.pdf>). The survey to name the program will be reopened. Ask your colleagues in your respective units for feedback. The name will be presented to the full Senate at the February meeting. President Ayers thanked everybody for their commitment to the process and participation.

Professional and Academic Concerns

A faculty member reported on the sparse level of support to help students with different abilities. He had a blind student in a biology course and lab. Although WMU has only two staff members in the Office of Disability Services to assist on a campus of 24,000, this faculty member reported positively about the timely, quality assistance he was provided by Jane Fraley-Burgett and her office. Provost Greene acknowledged that a committee has been convened to review federal requirements for disabled students and WMU's compliance.