

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes of 18 October 2017
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

Members Present: Kelly Ackerson, Rob Eversole, Melissa Intindola, Nora Lewis, Cindy Linn, John Miller, Marcel Zondag

Member Absent: Valerian Kwigizile

Ex Officio Member Present: John Jellies

Advisory Members Present: Nicole Albee, Director, Office of Student Conduct, Kathy Mitchell, Ombudsman

Staff: Sue Brodasky

The meeting was called to order by Chair Eversole at 12:31 p.m.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of 20 September 2017 Minutes

A motion was made by Linn, seconded by Ackerson, to approve the 20 September 2017 minutes as presented. With one abstention, the motion carried.

Chairs Remarks – Eversole

Eversole's comments covered:

- A concern of a faculty member imposing a grade sanction without registering a complaint with the Office of Student Conduct. The faculty member communicated with the student regarding the conduct violation directly. Albee was asked to contact the faculty member to provide notification of the policy violation and provide guidance through the proper process. Discussion was held.

ACTION / INFORMATION ITEMS

PCC 2017-18 Charges Recommendations

Jellies noted that the role statement for PCC is unique from other Senate Councils and Committees, such that it addresses topics as they arise directly to the Faculty Senate or its Executive Board. It was determined that of the current charges, one and four would be retained and three new charges would be added. One, establish a timeline for which faculty have to report a student for suspicion of academic violation. Two, explore solicitation of membership in Grade and Program Dismissal Appeals Committee and Academic Integrity Committee. Three, create a cycle of review for University policies pertaining to academic conduct.

A motion was made by Jellies, seconded by Linn, to recommend the revised charges to the Executive Board. Motion carried.

Grade Appeal Process Concerns

An email concern to the Ombudsman office had been provided for discussion. The faculty member had expressed concern regarding the process and timeline for grade appeal. It does not appear that there was any policy violation, but rather concern that the student expressed a personal opinion about the faculty member to multiple people not directly involved. The issue of the timeline was specifically related to the student submitting the application for appeal during the summer. It took the student until August 17 to submit the paperwork, which is only to the student's detriment. The faculty was on leave for six weeks during the summer, which also slowed the process. Discussion was held. Mitchell was asked to include a check box on the form to indicate that the director was contacted and met or declined to meet with the student. Additionally, all of the forms will be added to the Ombudsman website. Ackerson was asked to inform the faculty member of the results of this discussion.

Grade and Program Dismissal Appeals Committee Membership – Mitchell
Brodasky explained staffing issues that delayed solicitation for members for both GAPDAC and AIC. It was acknowledged that the recruitment messages need to be reviewed and updated. Eversole suggested that recruitment take place during both fall and spring semester. Discussion was held. Since this topic has been added to the PCC charges, it will be on a future agenda.

A motion was made by Jellies, seconded by Miller, to bring the option to explore recruitment during fall and spring semesters before the Executive Board. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m. by Chair Eversole.

Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator