

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE**

**PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes of 10 October 2018
Bernhard Center Faculty Lounge**

Members Present: Kelly Ackerson, Rob Eversole, Melissa Intindola, Cindy Linn, John Miller, Matthew Mingus

Members Absent: Valerian Kwigizile, Marcel Zondag

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 12:30 p.m.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

A motion was made by Intindola, seconded by Ackerson, to accept the agenda as provided. Motion carried.

Approval of 19 September 2018 Minutes

A motion was made by Miller, seconded by Linn, to approve the 19 September minutes as presented. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM

Grade Appeal Timeline Change – Mitchell

Mitchell reviewed the data supplied to the committee prior to the meeting. She offered that additional support for the change is expected from program directors and department chairs. Discussion was held regarding the specifics of the students included in the data provided. While faculty may be away during winter closure or over summer, the suggested 20-day submission students would be subject to would only affect the initial written contact to the department chair that is required. It was noted that since programs have indicated that there is an issue with the current 60-day deadline, it is appropriate to consider the change. Ackerson discussed the proposed change with her department and noted that the current 60-day deadline causes an issue for clinical placement. Mitchell noted that 80% of the cases noted already meet the 20-day deadline.

A motion was made by Linn, seconded by Mingus, to recommend the 20-day revision to the Faculty Senate Executive Board at its next meeting. Motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Military Short-Term Absence Policy – Jellies

Discussion was held. It was suggested that there may be solutions already in WMU policy that the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs is unaware. Concerns were expressed regarding the length of leave time proposed. It was questioned if the leave time was calendar days or course class times. Additional concerns were expressed regarding hybrid and online courses and the possibility of setting up

students for failure. Mitchell noted that currently students affected by military deployment apply for a hardship withdraw, and often get a tuition refund if the hardship is approved. Miller noted that several universities have similar policies in place. Brodasky was asked to invite Military and Veterans Affairs staff to attend the next PCC meeting to respond to the following questions:

- What issue/problem is the policy designed to resolve?
- Provide statistics (at least 5-years) to support the need for the policy.
- What was done to resolve the issue/problem for prior students?
- What have other universities done to address this issue/problem?
- Do other universities have a similar policy, and which ones?

OTHER

Jellies reported that MOA-18/05: Creation of Undergraduate GPA Revision Policy will be in front of the Executive Board at its next meeting for approval.

It was requested that disabled student accommodations be added to the next agenda as a discussion item.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m. by Chair Eversole.

Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator