Faculty Senate Executive Board Report – Richard Gershon, Faculty Senate President

Senate President Gershon’s report included the following:

- Emeritus faculty member Jess Walker, Education and Professional Development recently passed away.
- **Faculty Senate Appraisal of the WMU President:** On Tuesday, November 6, the Faculty Senate will launch the faculty appraisal for President Edward Montgomery with a return date of Monday, November 19. Senators were asked to assist in getting the word out to their department faculty, noting it is important to get a good response. The revised survey will be 20 questions, down from the previous 38. The completed survey results will be provided to the Board of Trustees and the President on November 30, and at the December 6 Faculty Senate meeting.

- **School of Choice:** The Faculty Senate Executive Board recently met with President Edward Montgomery and Provost Jennifer Bott to discuss how the Faculty Senate can help shape the vision of WMU being a School of Choice. This presents opportunities in terms of:
  - Academic mission and course design
  - Admissions standards
  - The role of graduate education at WMU
  - WMU Essential Studies
  - WMU’s relationship with the City of Kalamazoo
  - South Neighborhood campus redevelopment

- **Accessible Technology Committee:** The Accessible Technology Committee convened by Associate Provost Christopher Cheatham to address issues of Americans with Disabilities Act at WMU recently held its first meeting. The committee will be creating a mission and purpose statement. It is anticipated that this committee will be able to address the overlapping responsibilities of the Disability Services for Students office, Extended University Programs, and the Office of Information Technology. OIT is in the process of hiring an accessible technology specialist. This has been an ongoing issue, which is being managed through different parts of the university.

- **Council and Committee Reports:**
  - The WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee has been seated and trained. There have been 160 courses submitted for review as part of WMU Essential Studies. There is still an opportunity to attend the remaining workshops on November 9 and 30. To register visit the Faculty Development website: [https://wmich.edu/facultydevelopment/](https://wmich.edu/facultydevelopment/)
  - The Faculty Senate Executive Board, on behalf of the Extended University Programs Council, has recommended implementation of new Elearning Standards.
  - The Campus Planning and Finance Council has been tasked with updating the University Campus Tour. The Council has recently been joined by three new advisory members, Tony Proudfoot, Vice President for Marketing and Strategic Communication, Terrence Curran, Associate Provost for...
Remarks by Edward Montgomery, WMU President

President Edward Montgomery had another commitment and was not in attendance.

Remarks by Jennifer Bott, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Provost Bott’s remarks included the following:

- **Faculty Senate Executive Board Meeting**: the recent meeting with the Executive Board and the administration provided powerful discussion on shared governance. Provost Bott thanked the Executive Board for its time, engagement, and commitment to shared governance.
- **Faculty Senate Executive Board and Council Meetings**: during the fall semester, the provost has attended several of the Faculty Senate council meetings in order to apprise herself of each council’s work and engage with the councils.
- **WMU Essential Studies**: thus far, 160 courses have been submitted for inclusion in the WMU Essential Studies program. More than 100 faculty members have attended workshops. The course submission deadline is December 31, 2018. So far, there is good distribution across the course categories and many courses were already in existence, but there are some new courses too.
- **Office of the Vice President for Research**: the Bronco Big Idea competition announced at the last Faculty Senate meeting by Vice President for Research Terri Goss Kinzy received great participation. The largest number of ideas came from undergraduate students, but submissions were also received from high school students and graduate students. Approximately 1% of all submissions to the National Science Foundation came from WMU.
  - **New Research Position**: a new grant writing position has been created to assist departments.
  - **Innovation Networking Session**: a session on Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and other emerging contaminants will be held on November 15 at the Fetzer Center from 4 to 7 p.m.
  - **National Science Foundation**: Mark Hurwitz, political science, is on leave from WMU due to serving as NSF program director for the law and social sciences program.
- **WMU Branding**: as was mentioned at the last Faculty Senate meeting there is an urgent need to promote and identify WMU. Vice President for Marketing and Strategic Communication Tony Proudfoot is working to identify what is rare and unique about WMU. To that end, there will be a WMU Branding town hall meeting on December 5 at 10 a.m. All faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to attend.

**ACTION ITEM**

**MOA-18/09: Creation of Service Learning Course Approval Procedures**

Kritzman stated that service learning is putting academics into practice. It is defined as a mutually beneficial endeavor in which course learning objectives are met by addressing community identified needs. Service learning is an important aspect of the college experience. In order to ensure that service learning is appropriately identified and woven into the University fabric, the Undergraduate Studies Council proposes formalizing service learning at WMU. The Undergraduate Studies Council recommends creation of a formal procedure for approving service learning courses, including a Course Designation Request Form. A motion was made by Kritzman, seconded by Carlson, to approve MOA-18/09.

A motion was made by Simpson, seconded by Rantz, to amend MOA-18/09 such that the bullet point reading “the faculty member teaching the course will notify the Registrar’s Office prior to curriculum submissions via email,” should be changed to “the department teaching the course will notify the Registrar’s Office using the Section Change Form,” in order to provide consistency in the submission process to the Registrar. The motion to amend carried.

Discussion included the following:

- It was questioned if faculty will be required to contact the Registrar’s Office every semester, or is contact only required if there is a change in the course. Kritzman noted that the approved amendment clarifies that the department chair will notify the Registrar’s Office each semester.
- Graduate service learning courses inclusion was questioned. Kritzman noted that this MOA is specific to undergraduate courses. Gershon stated that the Graduate Studies Council will be asked to review the MOA for consideration to apply the same procedures to graduate courses.

The motion to approve MOA-18/09 as amended carried.

**INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- **Creating Inclusive Classrooms – Candy McCorkle, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion**


- **West Hills Athletic Club Benefits – Tyler Norman, Assistant Manager**

Norman stated that West Hills Athletic Club is a full service club available to faculty and staff and approximately 1,300 are already members. Over 80 exercise classes are offered every week as part of the membership. Benefits range from limited access to full access at discounted rates for employees, and family members can join at regular rates. Visit the website to register: http://www.westhillsathletic.com/
South Neighborhood Redevelopment – Peter Strazdas, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management and David Dakin, Director for Planning, Space Management, and Capital Projects

Strazdas stated that there have been several versions of the University master building plan, but the current master plan is more engaging than ever before. The South neighborhood redevelopment plan offers very exciting options. Dakin cautioned that the master plan is not a set document but rather a guideline. This presentation encompasses the possibility of what could be, but just two of the included projects are confirmed – new student apartments and a new student center. There will be another town hall meeting to solicit input on November 29. https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2018/South%20Neighborhood.pdf

Discussion included the following:

- It was questioned if the planned student apartments are based on increased student enrollment. Dakin stated that WMU’s goal is to decrease its overall physical footprint, but to add the capacity to manage increasing student enrollment.
- A follow up question was asked if consideration had been given to the number of additional apartments being constructed off campus. Dakin explained that the planned housing is a replacement of what was recently demolished, and noted that since the plan is adjustable, it can be adjusted either up or down according to need.
- The plan indicates that housing and/or lodging will be constructed for non-university population, so it was asked how public safety would be addressed. Dakin noted that other universities have similar housing/lodging along with retail areas. There are no reports of increase in crime.
- It was questioned whether there has been input from the greater Kalamazoo community. Dakin reported that community leaders, neighborhood associations, and the Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce were included in the planning process.
- A question was raised about how meeting space will be accommodated once the Bernhard Center is demolished, and if the new student center will have meeting space. Dakin said that it will not be the same as Bernhard, but there will be some space. Further, with the anticipated hotel there will be a conference center included offering community meeting space.
- When asked, if there are plans to create designated walking and jogging trails, as well as bike paths, Dakin responded that the master plan does not include such designated areas, and is not anticipated to designate particular paths beyond vehicular and non-vehicular. However, if there is a significant demand as WMU moves forward, it could be considered. WMU is a pedestrian campus and will continue to be so.
- Considering the current issues with the network infrastructure, it was asked if this would be addressed as part of the master plan. It is expected that students will want high performance internet and WMU has not been keeping up and improving its infrastructure. Dakin noted that the Office of Information Technology has been part of the planning process for the student apartments and student center.
- It was noted that at the last Faculty Senate meeting a grim picture was expressed for the Michigan educational outlook. This development will have significant costs, but WMU cannot afford to delay.

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC CONCERNS

Discussion covered the following questions and statements:

- It was questioned why the faculty laptop initiative was discontinued, and what is being done to revive it. Associate Provost Chris Cheatham explained that the program had been funded by carry over funds in the Office of Information Technology. Those funds were all dispersed and no new funding is being allocated for the program. Funding for faculty computing is up to the colleges and departments.
- A follow up question was asked if the laptop initiative would be resurrected with the new Strategic Recourse Management budget model. Cheatham stated that the SRM would not be creating new revenue, nor will it be able to fix all of WMU’s funding problems. Because of the way revenue will be changed, the SRM is anticipated to alleviate such problems, but as of now that is unknown.
- Faculty were encouraged to attend the WMU football game, or to watch it on ESPN following the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Faculty Senate will meet next on 6 December 2018, in the Bernhard Center, room 208-209. The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Sue Brodasky and Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office