

Unit Communication Notes  
Faculty Senate Meeting  
March 1, 2018

\*Thanks to Vice President Sharon Carlson for her contribution to these notes\*

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

-A moment of silence was taken in remembrance of the lives lost in the recent mass murder at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

-Since the Faculty Senate last met, we have learned of the passing of Shirley Bach, professor emerita of philosophy and John T. Miller, assistant professor emeritus of health, physical education, and recreation.

-The annual Faculty Senate General Election for president, vice president, representatives-at-large, and department representatives has concluded. Dr. Rick Gershon will serve as the next Faculty Senate President and Dr. Janet Hahn as Vice President. Their terms, as well as those for the newly elected senators, begin at the second half of the May 10 Faculty Senate meeting.

-Memorandum of Action-16/14: Revision of Graduate Faculty Appointment Policy has been signed and returned by the Administration.

-A call for nominations to serve on the seven Faculty Senate Councils, and three Committees, was sent out this week. For details on the councils' and committees' work, please visit the Faculty Senate website. To make a nomination, email the Faculty Senate office.

-As mentioned in the February Logistics update, the Executive Board has posted the tentative timeline for the WMU Essential Studies rollout. This is the planned schedule, but there are many moving parts, so please save that link in your bookmarks for future reference.

<http://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2018/WES-timeline.2-27-18.pdf>

**President Edward Montgomery Remarks**

-Michigan Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education: The governor has proposed a 2% increase for higher education next year. For WMU, factoring in the state's accountability metrics, this would mean a 1.6% increase in our state appropriation. The share WMU will receive is a below-average increase due to our performance relative to our Carnegie peers on 6-year graduation rates. This translates to \$218,000 or 1.8% of our institutional support as percentage of expenditures. Western was the only school who received no points for our graduation rate.

-Each of Michigan's public university presidents was invited to spend 15 minutes with the subcommittee and was asked to respond in writing to a set of questions about how we address the issues of sexual assault and harassment on our campuses, about tuition affordability, free speech on campus and the University's endowment.

-Title IX: President Montgomery extended gratitude for all of the hard work the campus has done over the past four years as WMU has been held out as a model in this regard. Two weeks ago, as the

Legislature was preparing for its hearings, our Title IX coordinator Felicia Crawford and General Counsel Carrick Craig were invited to give the legislators a primer on the underlying issues and nuances of federal legislation and the steps taken to ensure student well-being and legal compliance.

-Telling Our Story: President Montgomery spoke to the legislators about the University's recent accomplishments and the ways WMU is responding to the state's priorities, especially talent development, which he takes every opportunity to showcase. Talent development is at the top of Governor Snyder's agenda. He's just announced a \$100 million Marshall Plan for Talent that emphasizes skills education rather than degrees.

-Post-Graduate Student Success study: This was one of the focal points President Montgomery's presentation to the legislators. That 91% of our graduates are working or in graduate school within three months of commencement and 77% of those working are in Michigan are powerful arguments for how we develop "talent."

-Accreditation for WMed: WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine has achieved full accreditation, which is impressive and not typical. The Liaison Committee on Medical Education awarded accreditation for five years, which is the maximum allowed to a school receiving a first accreditation.

-Heritage Hall honors: The renovation of Western Michigan University's historic Heritage Hall has been recognized by ASHRAE, a global society of building engineers, to receive the organization's 2018 Award of Engineering Excellence, an honor bestowed upon international building projects only five times over the past 30 years. The two engineers who accepted the award—Jonathan Rumohr and Jesse Hendershot—are both WMU alumni and played critical roles as their company, Tower Pinkster, transformed the facility, originally opened in 1905, into its new role as the University's Heritage Hall Alumni Center.

-Search Updates:

•*Provost:* Applications continue to be collected and faculty are encouraged to submit nominations (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FWYFLK2>). Airport interviews are next and candidates will visit campus at the end of the semester.

•*Vice President for Marketing and Strategic Communication:* The committee is being formed now and the plan is to have this person in place in a couple of months to guide the branding of WMU.

-University Summit on Student Success: On March 7 the Success@WMU transformational initiative will kick off with a campus-wide summit. Success & You @WMU will mark the campus launch of activities supporting fall implementation of Success@WMU. A panel of national experts will discuss topics like academic engagement, peer mentoring, black male student retention and mental health. Registration for this event is needed by March 5. More information on this initiative can be found at: <http://www.wmich.edu/president/transformational-initiative-fund/success-wmu>

-Student Accolades:

•Four WMU students have been selected by Stanford University as University Innovation Fellows. This is the second year WMU students have been selected to participate in the global program that empowers student leaders to increase campus engagement with innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity and design thinking.

•WMU's 2018 University Innovation Fellows are among students from 64 higher education institutions in nine countries selected. They are:

*Andreas (Andy) Hobelsberger*, a physics major from Germany,  
*Megan Miller* from Lake Orion, Michigan, double major in marketing and management,  
*Saleh Mohamed*, mechanical engineering major from Grand Rapids, and  
*Daniel Mozel*, engineering design technology major from Milford, Michigan.

•*Alexis Lenderman*: Finalist for the prestigious Truman Scholarship. Western had one previous Truman Scholar (Sarah Woodward, 1999). Alexis is a Seita Scholar and a Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellow who just completed a stint in Washington, D.C. as a *Leadership and the American Presidency Scholar* at the Reagan Foundation. Alexis is majoring in entrepreneurship, food service administration and global international studies and minoring in nonprofit leadership.

•New WMU music alumnus, *Michael Gause*, has been awarded a Detroit Symphony Orchestra African American Orchestra Fellowship, designed to help diversify America's professional orchestras. Michael will play trumpet with the DSO for the 2018-19 season.

-Faculty Accolades:

•*Erika Friedl Loeffler*, professor emerita in anthropology and internationally known for her research on women and families in Iran, has just published her sixth book about Iran, "Folksongs from the Mountains of Iran. Culture, Poetics and Everyday Philosophies," with I.B. Tauris. This book concentrates on the ethnographic content in folklore from a tribal area in Iran and is based on anthropological research in the area the author has conducted since 1965. She has been retired for nearly 18 years and continues to contribute to her discipline.

•*Andrea Beach* and *Charles Henderson* of the Center for Research on Instructional Change in Post-Secondary Education (CRICPE) have a new grant for \$905,114 to use the wisdom of education change agents and networks to develop new knowledge by combining that wisdom, gained from practice and field-generated research with existing established knowledge.

•A second award to CRICPE for \$299,861 will allow a team of researchers to explore online teaching practices for undergraduate STEM courses. The team includes *Brian S. Horvits*, *Whitney DeCamp*, *Regina Garza-Mitchell*, *Charles Henderson* and *Megan Grunert-Kowalske*.

-Virtual Reality Lab: Congratulations to the collaborative efforts of the University Libraries and the Office of Information Technology for this lab located in Waldo Library. The lab expands existing innovative spaces and potential to move into new areas of teaching, learning and research.

-Mid-American Conference Academic Leadership Development Program: Last week WMU hosted this group's inaugural conference. Associate Provost Dave Reinhold and his team organized the very successful event.

-Spring Convocation: Excellence in Discovery, Diversity, Teaching Innovation, and Global Engagement were celebrated at the event, with recognition to award recipients including:

- Lori Brown*, *Chad Edwards* and *Autumn Edwards* for their accomplishments in Teaching Innovation,
- Nancy Hock* and *Matt Reeves* for their Community Engagement,
- Dawnielle Simmons*, *Marcy Peake*, and *Donna Talbot* for their commitment to excellence in Diversity and Inclusion,
- Barb Caras-Tomczak* and *Jennifer Harrison* for their commitment to WMU's Global Engagement pillar;
- Wendy Beane*, *Elena Litvinova*, *Patricia Reeves* and *Jianping Shen* for Distinguished Research and Creative Scholarship.

## Questions for President Montgomery

**Q:** Did everybody but WMU receive points for graduation rates?

**A:** Yes, but it included several Carnegie classifications. WMU was not above average.

**Q:** Does WMU have data on six-year graduation rates by college?

**A:** Yes. It is a substantial campus-wide issue and has become more of an issue. The first piece is first-year retention. So far, WMU is doing better than the last five years. Many factors can interact and make graduation difficult. Western's average six-year graduation rate is 56%.

**Q:** Is WMU taking steps to protect all constituencies across campuses?

**A:** Yes. A joint call center is about to open to avoid jurisdictional communication gaps/overlaps.

**Q:** Are there some tips people on campus can take to protect themselves?

**A:** Vice President Jan Der Kley reported that WMU Public Safety Officer Andy Bachman will talk about safety and how to protect yourself. Bachman can schedule presentations with individual units and a video on active shooters is available as well.

General Counsel Carrick Craig reported that Western remains a gun free campus, which is, part of the stance we can take.

President Montgomery reported that admissions received inquiries from high school students who were concerned about any ramifications for admission if they took part in demonstrations. WMU supports student rights to participate in peaceful demonstrations and exercise free speech.

**Q:** What drives difficulties with retention?

**A:** Success@WMU is aimed to address this issue, to get students involved in learning communities, and get resources for needed help. It is a multi-pronged effort.

## Remarks by WMU Interim Provost Susan Stapleton

-Weekly conversations are held about Title IX and new and emerging trends in campus safety and how to get this information distributed.

-Stapleton thanked Kevin Abbott and Tom Wolf from the Office of Information Technology, and Scott Russell and Julie Garrison, from University Libraries, for their role in the Virtual Reality Lab.

-WMU continues to meet with educational partners and community college partners. The leadership team from WMU met with the leadership team from the WMU Cooley School of Law to discuss topics including collaboration and virtual reality.

-**March 12 is the deadline to enter mid-term grades**. Submitting mid-term grades is critical for student success. Directions for how to do this are available online (<http://www.wmich.edu/registrar/faculty-staff/grades>). A website has been developed with tips for exporting grades. Brian Carnell, from Extended University Programs, was thanked for his work on the website.

-Success@WMU has attracted 80 volunteers from across campus. There is much excitement and this initiative is one way to bring these groups together.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### **Bylaws Amendments** (Suzan Ayers, Faculty Senate President)

The Executive Board is proposing two amendments to Article VII: Committees, Sec. 1, of the Faculty Senate Bylaws. Tonight is the first reading of the amendments with no action. Please review the amendments in preparation for debate and voting at the April 5 Faculty Senate meeting.

The first amendment is to add a standing committee to conduct the Centers and Institutes approval and review process on behalf of the Faculty Senate, as mandated in MOA-14/03: Revised Policy on Centers and Institutes.

The second amendment is to add a standing committee to oversee the implementation, assessment, and revision of the WMU Essential Studies curriculum.

With the addition of both amendments, the article would then read:

Article VII: Committees, Sec. 1. *In addition to those committees named in Article VII, Part 2, Sec. 2, of the constitution, the following shall be standing committees of the Senate: Committee on University Strategic Planning, Faculty Retirement Recognition, Professional Concerns, ~~and~~ Libraries, ~~and~~ Centers and Institutes, and WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory.*

### **Email Access Report** (Carrick Craig, General Counsel)

In the past year, the Office of Information Technology did not request, and no approval was given, to access any employee email accounts.

### **Athletic Board Report** (Lisa DeChano-Cook, Chair, WMU Athletic Board)

The annual update was presented and is available on the Senate website:

<http://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2018/Athletic%20Board%20Report-FS.3-1-18.pdf>

### **Questions for DeChano-Cook**

**Q:** In light of what has happened at Michigan State University, what is WMU doing?

**A:** All coaches have been interviewed and several students as well. WMU has policies in place. The Athletic Board is looking at existing policies to see if changes are needed.

**Q:** Are the Most Valuable Professor names listed on line?

**A:** That list is not in one location but DeChano-Cook would highly recommend it.

**A:** Ayers suggested adding the MVP group picture to the WMU home page with a link to the list.

### **Haenicke Institute for Global Education** (Paulo Zagalo-Melo, Associate Provost, Haenicke Institute for Global Education)

Update provided on recent activities of the Haenicke Institute for Global Education. Faculty are largely the drivers for internationalization and Zagalo-Melo thanked the Faculty Senate for having the International Education Council as part of its structure. There are many successes to celebrate but there is a need to upgrade, update, and develop new initiatives to remain on the map of internationalization and global engagement. He focused on three areas:

•**Study Abroad:** WMU students going abroad and international students studying at WMU. This program faced difficulties in the fall. The number of international students increased due to trusted relationships and partnerships. English as a Second Language through the Center for English Language and Culture

for International Students was modified in order to allow students to start taking some courses in their majors. This is a high-impact practice and will increase student success rates and allow WMU to recruit more students. Another area that has been explored is Study Abroad scholarships. These have been reduced after examining if there were correlations between scholarships and participation. The scholarship focus has become primarily need-based. Ways to incorporate Study Abroad into the curriculum are being examined.

•Finding new collaborations or partnerships. HIGE seeks to help faculty find and/or build on collaborations or partnerships.

•Internationalization of the curriculum. Global competence is necessary and will lead these conversations. It is an opportunity to create global competence for our students in courses and programs.

### **Questions for Zagalo-Melo**

**Q:** Is HIGE considering ways to help WMU students know how much funding is available at the time of registration for study abroad experiences?

**A:** Those students most in need of assistance to study abroad have become the focus of scholarships.

**Q:** How is program quality assessed?

**A:** If you develop the program, you control the quality. For programs at other universities, site visits and feedback from students are solicited.

**Q:** Have the twinning programs been assessed, for example, Sunway?

**A:** As programming is expanded, Malaysia is expected to be a key contributor. The process of assessing the effectiveness of our partnerships has begun.

### **Ad Hoc General Education Logistics Committee Update (Mervyn Elliott, Chair)**

Elliott reported the committee has met twice since last month's Faculty Senate and is on track to complete its charges by the end of the semester. It has sent student requirements and course approval guideline recommendations to the Executive Board for consideration. The guidelines for the assessment piece is being finalized. Feedback is still being received for the WMU Essential Studies required student learning outcomes. Elliott encouraged faculty to begin thinking about their own courses and where they may fit in the curriculum and at what level (foundations, exploration/discovery, or connections). Faculty should also think about how the course will be assessed. There will be some Memoranda of Action at the next Faculty Senate meeting. The committee is also working with Cheryl Roland, University Relations, to roll out communications on the curriculum.

### **Questions for Elliott**

**Q:** Will the students be solicited or surveyed for feedback on which courses may be helpful to meet the critical thinking outcome?

**A:** There are no plans to survey students but this idea could be explored.

**Q:** Will the dates on the postcard be met?

**A:** The last two topics (what every student needs to take in WMU Essential Studies and course approval guidelines) will be coming to the floor before May. The approval process for new courses will begin in the fall. The tentative timeline is on the website.

**Vice President for Research Terri Kinzy was introduced.**

## **Professional and Academic Concerns**

The building modifications in Kohrman Hall have disrupted Aviation classes for the last eight weeks as well as mid-term exams. Van Der Kley suggested that normally this would go through Laura Thomas. Van Der Kley will go back to her team and see if things could be rescheduled.

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m. The Senate will next meet on April 5.