WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Minutes of 6 December 2018

The Faculty Senate met in rooms 208-209 of the Bernhard Center. There were 79 Senators and substitutes present.


Guests: Jody Brylinsky, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness; Christopher Cheatham, Associate Provost for Budget and Personnel; James Cousins, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Paula Davis, Executive Director, University Relations; Marilyn Duke, Center for Academic Success Programs; Mervyn Elliott, Director, WMU Essential Studies; Rob Eversole, Chair, Professional Concerns Committee; Carla Koretsky, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Edwin Martini, Interim Associate Provost for Extended University Programs; Suzie Nagel-Bennett, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students; Kenneth Piariski, Comparative Religion; Amaury Pineda, President, Graduate Studies Association; Jessica Poling, Vice President, Western Student Association; Tony Proudfoot, Vice President for Marketing and Strategic Communication; David Reinhold, Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies; Joe Sanchez, President, Western Student Association; Houssam Toutanjie, Dean, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Tom Wolf, Chief Information Officer

Staff: S. Brodasky, S. Davenport

Faculty Senate President Richard Gershon called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

A motion was made by Heun, supported by Barkman, to accept the agenda as published. Motion carried.

 Approval of Minutes of 1 November 2018 Senate Meeting
Without objection, the minutes of the 1 November meeting were approved as published.

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

Senate President Gershon’s report included the following:

- Faculty Senate Appraisal of the WMU President: The Faculty Senate concluded its appraisal of President Edward Montgomery. Summary results were presented.

Remarks by Edward Montgomery, WMU President

President Montgomery’s remarks included the following:

- The Make a Difference Award Ceremony will be on December 10.
- The Board of Trustees meeting and holiday reception will be on December 12.
- Repeatedly the President has stated that WMU is a remarkable campus with excellent programs and faculty in every college on the campus. It is a place with truly dedicated staff and an ethos of inclusion and going the extra mile to help students succeed, provide needed services and new knowledge to the community and state, and actively engage with the world. Alumni, community members, and nearly everyone who has experienced WMU loves it. But the harsh reality is that over the past seven to eight years WMU has been in decline. The enrollment has fallen steadily, research funding and alumni support rates have been cut in half, state support is lower in real terms than it was before the Great Recession, graduation rates have declined, retention rates have declined and WMU’s U.S. News & World Report ranking has placed it in a tie with Central Michigan University. Departments have experienced budget cuts reducing staff, faculty positions, and operating resources. All of this leaves WMU at a critical juncture; there is a choice to be made. Stay the course or change. If there is going to be change it can be incremental change, which is safe, or it can be “Dream Big” change, looking for transformational ideas and approaches. The search for these ideas and approaches will have fits and starts, successes and failures. It will be messy and WMU will make mistakes. The leadership will make mistakes. Success will come from tapping our collective wisdom, ideas, and grit. But success will only come from moving forward together to build a new future not from trying to rebuild or clinging to the past. WMU as a campus needs to adapt and adjust because the environment it in has changed. And it is trying to adapt and adjust as quickly as it can, but it does need to be done in an inclusive way.

- The President expressed appreciation for community participation at the “Think Big” branding exercise. There were 300 faculty, staff, students, administrators, and community members in attendance, all engaged in identifying a point of distinction for WMU. He thanked all those who participated. It is a step toward constructing a vision for where WMU
wants to go, which is real, relevant, and rare. There were diverse sets of students, faculty, and staff from across the campus that came together to think big. This was a good first step in promoting this dialogue. There will be more and it will lead to tangible outcomes. It has been made clear that the campus community has gotten tired of getting excited and working on projects only to have them be put in a drawer or on a shelf. That will not happen here, it will not happen to that project or to the other projects this administration is asking you to engage. Transformational ideas were sought and funded last year. Campus silos were broken down to develop budget protocol reflecting the highest campus needs. It will be done again.

- WMU is working on a new budget model for the campus and progress is being made.
- Announced last year was a different approach to physical infrastructure projects. Rather than replace one old building at a time with the next one on the list the campus infrastructure was looked at more holistically or strategically. While Valley III certainly needs work, the Elmwood apartments were a wart strategically placed on the face of the campus. So rather than stick with the old plan and approach, focus was shifted to replacing those 70-year-old temporary buildings and then forming a new core to the campus in the south neighborhood to attract students and form a better link to the community in which WMU resides. Input was gathered beginning in early March with the first public input sessions. Over the subsequent months, eight hours of public input sessions were conducted through seven workshops, with more than 500 students engaged at Bronco Bash. Faculty ideas are needed and welcomed at this important time of envisioning better ways to serve students. Last Thursday about 150 participants came to hear more about this project while the architects presented the final design concepts for:
  - South Neighborhood housing facility, which replaces the 70-year old Elmwood apartments that will be ready for students in fall 2020.
  - New student center and dining facility, which will ultimately replace the Bernhard Center and be online in 2021.
  - South Neighborhood master plan, which reimagines the entire southern portion of main campus, including the housing, the student center and dining facility, but also includes retail venues, new pedestrian and vehicular pathways, outdoor spaces, campus connections, and several major building efforts.
- Even with these presentations, that is not the end of the conversation. In January, Vice President Diane Anderson will be engaging with student groups about the student center and Vice President Jan Van Der Kley will be engaging others about physical space and environment. The South Neighborhood master plan is a conceptual idea that if all done, will transform about 1.4 million square feet of space or about 20 percent of WMU’s campus. It is big, it is ambitious, but it is still a dream. It needs to be refined, it needs to be prioritized, and it needs to be financed. The ink is not dry. Conversations will be had and are needed at each additional step of the way.

- These projects are about strengthening the WMU student experience, enhancing WMU’s research capacity, and linking WMU with the surrounding community. It’s about making WMU a University of Choice to learn, discover, and engage, in which the physical infrastructure plays a very significant role in that.
- As these building projects are pursued and carried out, students are, again, at the heart of decision-making. So too, is WMU’s commitment to sustainability. The administration and the campus community share this dedication. Advancing responsible environmental stewardship remains a strategic value. WMU will pursue high standards for sustainability. Beyond the buildings, as south campus is redeveloped, there will be more green space and more trees than there are today. And there will be a larger green buffer zone between campus buildings and the railroad tracks along Stadium Drive.
- Addressing the transformative South Neighborhood project the communication about that major campus development, and communication about Universitywide endeavors in general. While town-hall meetings were held, there are some faculty and students who think the leadership did not listen. There are those within the campus community who have expressed surprise about the scope of these projects, the nature of these projects, and how quickly the projects are moving. Surprise was never the intent, and exclusion never the goal. Lessons have been learned from this and there is a commitment to do better, to reaching out more broadly and continually. It is asked that the campus community reciprocate and engage more. Can a better job be done promoting and inviting input? The answer is yes, absolutely, and it will be done. But just know that when the campus community is invited to be part of a conversation, there will be an ultimate outcome, and everyone should be helping shape that outcome. There will be decisions made based on the input received from the community that participates. Please don’t ignore calls for participation, thinking it is business as usual, because WMU is moving.

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

*Senate President Gershon’s report included the following:*
- **The following retired faculty members recently passed away:**
  o June France, Education and Professional Development
  o S. F. Kapoor, Mathematics and Statistics
  o Donna Schuman, Biology and Biomedical Sciences
  o Doris Smith, Occupational Therapy
  o Robert Wyman, Health, Physical Education and Recreation
  o Roger Zabik, Health, Physical Education and Recreation
- **Faculty Senate General Election:** Notification for the 2019 Faculty Senate general election, which begins in January for representatives-at-large and departmental senators, will be emailed to the faculty tomorrow.
- **Presidential Scholars Convocation:** Departments will be contacted soon to provide nominations for the annual Presidential Scholars Convocation, which will be due mid-January.
Remarks by Jennifer Bott, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Provost Bott’s remarks included the following:

- **Accolades:**
  - Sally Hadden, History, was awarded the Craig Joyce Medal from the American Society for Legal History, of which Dr. Hadden is the first female awardee. The Craig Joyce Medal is awarded on an occasional basis to acknowledge and honor extraordinary and sustained volunteer service to the Society.
  - Timothy Palmer, Management, and Jennifer Harrison, Social Work, have received the New York Times Education Award for Innovation in Education Abroad for their work on sustainability and social justice in India.

- **Medallion Competition:** under the leadership of Associate Provost Terrence Curran and Associate Dean Staci Perryman-Clark, the WMU Medallion Scholarship competition hosted 1,050 students. Their average GPA was 4.12, average SAT score 1336 and ACT score 29.4.

- **Research:** awards are up $12.6 million, with over 66 awards, and expenditures are up $7.7 million. Submissions are down.
  - Sindecuse Director of Health Promotion and Education Cari Robertson received the largest grant given in the state for sexual assault prevention.

- **Graduate Herbert Smith will receive his WMU University Studies degree that he began 63 years ago at next week’s ceremony.**

**ACTION ITEM**

*Resolution in Honor of Emerita Jody Brylinsky*

The following resolution was presented to Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness Jody Brylinsky.

WHEREAS, Jody Brylinsky, over a 27-year career at Western Michigan University, has dedicated herself to the furtherance of Higher Education in the Academy of scholars through her deep and abiding commitment to the education of future coaches and teachers, herself a long-standing participant in Special Olympics and myriad social causes both locally and nationally; and

WHEREAS, Jody Brylinsky has most recently served as the Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and demonstrated her pivotal role in developing a contemporary university strategic plan and structure for program review and planning; and

WHEREAS, Jody Brylinsky has been a valued and trusted colleague, connecting Administration and the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate in furtherance of the principles of shared governance, as well as in her past service to the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate as a member of multiple councils and committees, as a Senator, and as a member of the Executive Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Executive Board of the Faculty Senate of Western Michigan University, on this the 6th day of December 2018, does recognize, congratulate, and commend Jody Brylinsky for her dedication and contributions toward the enhancement and betterment of Western Michigan University.

Brylinsky remarked..."like many old coaches, we never go away we just move to the sidelines and yell a lot louder."

**MOA-18/05: Creation of Undergraduate GPA Revision Policy**

Gershon introduced the Memorandum of Action. The Professional Concerns Committee recommends the creation of a one-time GPA Revision Policy for students who change to a major in a different department or academic unit. A motion was made by Jellies, seconded by Mingus, to approve MOA-18/05.

Discussion was held

With five votes against and one abstention, the motion to approve MOA-18/05 carried.

**MOA-18/11: Revision to Undergraduate Catalog-Course Grade Appeals Student’s Deadline**

Professional Concerns Committee Chair Rob Eversole introduced the MOA. The Professional Concerns Committee recommends changing the Grade Appeal student’s deadline from 16 to 20 days. The proposed change will bring this policy in line with the other WMU appeals processes.

A motion was made by Jellies, seconded by Barkman, to approve MOA-18/11.

Discussion was held.

With 11 votes against the motion carried.

**INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

*Western Student Association Update – Joe Sanchez, President and Jessica Poling, Vice President*

Sanchez stated that the WSA agenda is currently focused on helping WMU students move forward. His remarks in support of that agenda included:

- Partnership with the WMU Black Student Union to host a movie night showing “The Hate U Give”.
- Sustainability partnership to work with students who are interested in saving the South Neighborhood Redevelopment trees.
- WSA Presidential Initiatives:
  - A student body survey regarding dining halls will go out in January.
  - Help to identify personal and financial planning goals.
  - A graphing calculator and iClicker rental program.

Poling’s comments included:

- WSA’s contribution toward the evaluation of WMU President Edward Montgomery.

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• WSA distributed all of the student organization funding. However, there needs to be revision to the funding policy and improvements to the process.
• The WSA website has been added to WMU’s content management systems.
• WSA has begun working with Vice President for Marketing and Strategic Communication Tony Proudfoot in order to rebrand WSA.
• WSA is planning a community dinner to bring together students and community leaders.
• WSA asks that they be consulted in order to ensure shared governance.

Sanchez gave a report on the level of midterm grades being submitted. The lack of midterm grades has been identified as one of the biggest issues expressed by students. Grades are important to students and assist in student success. It was suggested that faculty be incentivize to turn in midterm grades. Discussion was held.

Graduate Student Association Update – Amaury Pineda, President
Pineda questioned if the Senate members knew WMU’s athletic nickname prior to becoming the Broncos in 1939. He noted that the name Hilltoppers has remained on campus in other areas, such as the Hilltop Review, the GSA’s bi-annual peer-reviewed journal that provides a venue for sharing scholarly and creative work of graduate students at WMU. The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition was held on November 14, he encouraged faculty to attend next year. Pineda announced that his term as GSA president is ending and applications for the new president are being accepted until February 8, 2019.

WMU Essential Studies Update – Sarah Summy, Chair, WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee
Chair Summy’s remarks included the following:
• Over 350 classes have been initiated in the submission process. Approximately 10% of those are brand new courses.
• The majority of initiated courses are currently being reviewed by their respective colleges. The WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee will begin its processing of the proposals in January. The goal is to have all courses for the initial Essential Studies program approved by the end of spring semester for a fall 2020 launch.
• Once the courses are approved, the WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee will spend the summer making sure there are sufficient numbers of courses in each category and addressing when and how courses will be offered to ensure the program meets student demand.
• The WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee is in the process of seating an Ad Hoc Marketing Committee.
• The Navigating WMU Essential Studies workshops were very successful. Over 120 faculty attended. Additionally, members of the WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee met individually with 20 departments to discuss and plan for the program.

Discussion was held.

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC CONCERNS
Discussion covered the following questions and statements:
• It was stated that several students questioned the start of 11 a.m. classes on the day WMU started late due to weather. Administrative staff explained how action/closing of the University is determined due to inclement weather, such that several items are taken into consideration including the number of classes scheduled for the day in question, the time those classes are held, as well as the predicted weather patterns.
• Concern was expressed regarding difficulty in getting a proposal for an interdisciplinary program between the Haworth College of Business and the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences approved. However, the faculty member acknowledged that several members of the administration had recently offered to assist in processing the proposal through completion.
• A concern was raised regarding the absence of, or low lighting in the parking lots surrounding the Health and Human Services building. The administration will follow up.

ADJOURNMENT
The Faculty Senate will meet next on 7 February 2018, in the Valley Dinning Hall. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Sue Brodasky and Suzanne Davenport, Faculty Senate Office