Faculty Senate President Richard Gershon called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda
A motion was made by Simpson, seconded by Ayers, to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of the Faculty Senate Executive Board Minutes – 11 January 2019
Edits were suggested in Discussion Items of Visiting Scholar Fee and the Review and Revision of Faculty Senate Bylaws and Constitution.
A motion was made by Kritzman, seconded by Ayers, to approve the 11 January minutes as amended. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Provost Jennifer Bott

Bott emphasized contributions needed toward the identity initiative by noting that faculty and students were unfortunately absent from the initial town hall meetings. The administration is concerned that the faculty will miss an opportunity to be heard, and input that the administration very much wants to receive. Five additional town hall meetings have been scheduled. There is consideration of creating a design team to synthesize the Big Ideas. Discussion was held. Bott explained the fundamental difference between this endeavor and prior branding initiatives, in that prior attempts produced taglines whereas this initiative is planned to define what makes WMU different and special.

Bott was asked for an update on enrollment. She indicated that WMU suffered higher than anticipated loss from this past fall to spring. The decline has had a greater impact on upper division tuition. The administration will be reviewing the data in detail. The retention rate at 91.5% matched a low last seen in 2007. Student failure and program dismissals are up. Bott noted that while peer mentoring and similar programs are attempting to engage students, they do not necessarily follow up on at-risk-students. The most effective method to identifying at-risk-students are midterm grades, and while faculty have made great improvement in turning in midterm grades, there is still a lot of room to improve the number of grades turned in. Discussion was held. Bott explained efforts being made in retention of students in high school prior to their senior year.

WMU Policy Committee – Swartz and Hearit

Swartz provided an overview of the committee purpose as being focused on University policies in order to satisfy the Higher Learning Commission requirement. The committee does not have the authority to approve policy, but rather just to ensure that proposed policies are consistent and meet the accepted design and format. When asked how the committee fulfills its charge of consistency if it does not review the content, Swartz noted that the committee provides general oversight but does not try to engage at a deeper level. Hahn explained that if the committee has questions or concerns about the content of a policy, the policy owner would be contacted for further discussion. However, the committee’s role is continuing to evolve. Discussion was held. Following the committee’s first phase review it will shift focus to managing regular reviews of policy by the policy owners. It was suggested that the committee be asked to present its work at a future Faculty Senate meeting.

On an unrelated topic, Swartz stated that outside vendor contracts are being centralized for uniformity and asked faculty to please review the website for changes.

Success@WMU – Hearit

Hearit shared the changing demographics of WMU students. He reported that at the implementation of the peer-mentoring program it was noted that a link between mentorship and student retention is present, though it is not as robust as anticipated. During its first year across campus, the program data shows that student engagement between students and peer-mentors was moderate while participation in the community groups was limited. Of the students about whom data was able to be collected, about 50% were engaged with the program in some form while the other 50% were not engaged at all; though data reveals that of the 50% who chose not to participate 75% were engaged elsewhere on campus. Given these results, the program will be revamped for next fall. Hearit indicated that while multiple ideas are under consideration to facilitate participation it is expected that there will be implementation a social media-based mentoring program for all students, as well as an option for students to participate in an enhanced program that combines peer mentoring and academic components. Discussion was held.

INFORMATION ITEMS

President’s Update – Gershon

Gershon’s comments included the following:

- Research and Creative Activities Day: email letters to solicit support were distributed. It was questioned why the Faculty Senate is responsible for this event. Discussion was held. The EB suggested that Gershon relinquish all aspects of this event to the Graduate College.
- Campus Planning and Finance Council: Lynne Heasley, Institute for the Environment and Sustainability, has been encouraged to join the CPFC and possibly create a subcommittee to focus on the concerns she expressed regarding her interest in the campus climate survey that was conducted a couple of years ago. Discussion was held.
- AAUP Meeting: conversation is in process to schedule a meeting.
- Horary Degree Committee: Robert Dlouhy, Center for English Language and Culture for International Students, has agreed to chair and is in the process of scheduling a meeting.
• **Board of Trustees Meeting**: this week’s meeting was canceled due to inclement weather. James Bolger will be chair, with Lynn Chen-Zhang as vice chair. They will be invited to attend a EB meeting in the future.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**MOA-18/06: Honors Upon Graduation – Kritzman**
Kritzman stated that the recommendation is to change from 50 to 30 credit hours completed at WMU to qualify for honors. Discussion was held.
A motion was made by Kritzman, seconded by Simpson, to move the MOA to the floor of the Senate. Motion carried.

**Faculty Senate Agenda – 7 February 2019**
It was suggested that the order of the discussion items be rearranged such that WMU Essential Studies update is first, followed by the mental health topic, and third be Discover Kalamazoo.
A motion was made by Ayers, seconded by Jellies, to accept the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

**Faculty Senate Minutes – 6 December 2018**
A motion was made by Simpson, seconded by Kritzman, to approve the 6 December minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Faculty Senate Representatives-at-Large**
It was questioned and confirmed that associate deans are eligible to serve as a Faculty Senate Representative-at-Large. Discussion was held.
A motion was made by Ayers, seconded by Simpson, to approve Decker Hains, Sarah Summy, and Delores Walcott as presented. Motion carried.

**Creation of Ad Hoc Committee for Interdisciplinary Programs – Gershon**
A motion was made by Simpson, seconded by Ayers, to postpone the ad hoc committee creation to the next meeting. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS, Cont.**
A motion was made by Ayers, seconded by Abudayyeh, to postpone the remaining discussion items to the next meeting. Motion carried.
- Registrar Proposed Policies – Gershon
- Liberal Education Curriculum – Kritzman
- Determining Policies from MOAs – Hahn

**COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Extended University Programs Council**: Rantz reported that the council reviewed each of its charges to identify what has been completed and what still is in process.

**Academic Information and Technology Council**: Simpson stated that the council discussion focused on white board technology in the Library as well as budgetary reductions in the Office of Information Technology. Discussion was held.

**Campus Planning and Finance Council**: no report.

**Professional Concerns Committee**: Jellies explained the committee’s discussion regarding defining military short-term leave and incorporation of the definition into existing policy.

**International Education Council**: Hahn stated that the council had received a presentation about the WMU Signature program. The presentation included an incentive for faculty to develop global classrooms in collaboration with the Haenicke Institute for Global Education in order to receive $2 thousand.

**WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee**: Ayers provided a report via email prior to the meeting.

**Faculty Senate President** Richard Gershon adjourned the meeting at 11:34 p.m.

Submitted by: Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator