

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes of 20 February 2019
Bernhard Center Faculty Lounge

Members Present: Rob Eversole, Melissa Intindola, Cindy Linn, John Miller, Valerian Kwigizile, Matthew Mingus, Marcel Zondag
Member Absent: Kelly Ackerson
Ex Officio Member Present: John Jellies
Advisory Member Present: Nicole Albee, Director, Office of Student Conduct
Advisory Member Absent: Kathy Mitchell, Ombudsman
Staff: Sue Brodasky

The meeting was called to order by Chair Eversole at 12:31 p.m.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

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

Approval of 16 January 2019 Minutes

A motion was made by Intindola, seconded by Linn, to approve the 16 January minutes as presented. With one abstention, the motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Military Short-Term Absence Definition

Jellies provided a handout. He determined that no WMU policy, guidelines, Memoranda of Actions, or catalog language exists that defines acceptable absences. The only place that there is language about absences is in the attendance statement, which leaves allowing absences up to the discretion of the faculty member. It was noted that the Registrar's website includes language regarding the appropriate assignment of an "I" (incomplete) grade, which is not policy but rather an application of procedure. Other universities have blanket statements about absence. It was suggested that Jellies draft an acceptable absence statement including a list of necessary absence definitions including military leave, illness, bereavement, and participation in WMU sports, to be discussed at the next meeting.

Faculty Timeline to Report Student Academic Violation

Eversole reported that currently there is not a timeline for faculty to report a student academic violation. Intindola provided feedback from her department faculty. It was noted that General Counsel recommended that the deadline be from the faculty point of discovery rather than the student point of violation. Discussion was held. It was suggested that the timeline be the same as for students; 20 business days. Brodasky will draft the MOA for discussion at the next meeting.

OTHER

It was confirmed that PCC cannot address the topic of lack or lateness of grade submission since it is in the purview of the AAUP. It was suggested that Faculty Senate President Richard Gershon ask Director of Academic Collective Bargaining Nancy Mansberger to send email reminders to all faculty.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:29 p.m. by Chair Eversole.

Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator