

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE**

**PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes of 17 April 2019
Bernhard Center Faculty Lounge**

Members Present: Kelly Ackerson, Rob Eversole, Melissa Intindola, Cindy Linn, John Miller, Valerian Kwigizile, Matthew Mingus

Member Absent: Marcel Zondag

Ex Officio Member Present: John Jellies

Advisory Members Present: Nicole Albee, Director, Office of Student Conduct; Kathy Mitchell, Ombudsman

Staff: Sue Brodasky

The meeting was called to order by Chair Eversole at 12:29 p.m.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

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

Approval of 20 March 2019 Minutes

A motion was made by Intindola, seconded by Linn, to approve the 20 March minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Chair's Remarks – Eversole

Eversole deferred his time to Jellies to provide an update on the meeting with Provost Jennifer Bott regarding MOA-18/05: Creation of Undergraduate GPA Revision Policy. Jellies reported that the Provost expressed concerns with students facing increased debt load as an unintentional consequence of the proposed policy, as well as the potential to increase time to graduation. At the meeting, the Registrar provided data that 2,100 students could apply for the GPA revision annually, which would require staff in the Registrar's office and the Financial Aid office to process those requests. Additionally, the Financial Aid office expressed concern that receiving a GPA revision could compromise a student's opportunity for financial aid if the student does not consult the Financial Aid office. Several amendments to the Memorandum of Action were discussed at the meeting and it was determined that it can only be applied to a course when the student has received a grade of E or X. With a failing grade it would not negatively affect the student's financial aid or time to graduation. It was also suggested that the MOA be amended to ensure that WMU Essential Studies courses would not be eligible for GPA revision. Therefore, the MOA will be amended to include that only coursework of a student's declared major, cognate, or prerequisites are eligible in the policy. In addition, those courses eligible would have to be completed within a student's first three semesters. Discussion was held. PCC members expressed concern that international students would never be eligible since all of their courses in their first three semesters would be English as a second language (ESL) courses. It was suggested that the proposed

amendment be changed to the first three semesters in a declared major. Jellies noted that the MOA amendments will go before the Faculty Senate Executive Board at its next meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

MOA-19/04: Creation of Student Class Attendance Policy – Jellies

The committee review the MOA and made minor edits to language. The draft MOA has been provided to General Counsel Carrick Craig for review and comment.

A motion was made by Jellies, seconded by Mingus, to approve MOA-19/04 for recommendation to the Executive Board as amended. Motion carried.

Request for Addition to the 2019-20 Catalog – Albee

Albee provided explanation of the possible conflict between the Research Misconduct Policy and the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, whereas a student accused of research misconduct could be subject to either process as they are currently defined. She is being required to provide catalog and student code language that will provide determination of when the Student Academic Misconduct Policy is applied. Discussion was held regarding possible examples. It was noted that a far more in depth review and resolution of this issue is warranted but will have to be postponed until next academic year. The proposed language "*Except in situations which have specific additional requirements due to the project's funding, any student involved in alleged misconduct while conducting research for academic credit will go through the Academic Integrity process managed and facilitated by the Office of Student Conduct.*" Was discussed.

A motion was made by Jellies, seconded by Ackerson, to approve the proposed language for recommendation to the Executive Board. Motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

MOA-19/03: Faculty Timeline to Report Student Academic Violation

The committee reviewed options to move the item forward. It was noted that in the absence of policy on the topic the PCC cannot proceed with any action. Jellies was asked to report the issue to the Executive Board and ask for further investigation to existing language.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m. by Chair Eversole.

Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator