Western Michigan University
Faculty Senate
Executive Board Report
October 3, 2019

Richard A. Gershon, President

Faculty Senate Executive Board
John Jellies, Vice President pro tempore
Osama Abudayyeh, Director
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Sarah Summy, Director
Western Michigan University
School of Choice

The Faculty Senate Executive Board has regularly met with President Edward Montgomery and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jennifer Bott, as well as members of WMU’s senior leadership, to discuss ways in which the Faculty Senate can help shape the vision of WMU in terms of being a School of Choice.

This represents opportunities in terms of:

• Academic mission and course design
• Admission standards
• The role of graduate education at WMU
• WMU Essential Studies
• Intellectual skills
• Accessible technology
Memoranda of Action

The following MOAs have been signed and returned by the Administration:

- 18/05: Creation of Undergraduate GPA Revision Policy,
- 18/06: Honors Upon Graduation,
- 19/01: Revision of Undergraduate Catalog to Define Practice for Majors, Minors, and Cognates
WMU Essential Studies

• WMU Essential Studies remains on target for its launch in fall 2020.
• The WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee has continued to meet throughout the summer.
• Both the WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee and the WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee have begun their academic year meeting schedule.
Undergraduate Studies Council

• The USC, under the direction of Chairperson Bruce Ferrin, was asked to address a number of council charges in addition to its regular work to review undergraduate curriculum proposals.
• During the 2018-2019 academic year, the USC reviewed 49 curriculum proposals.

Graduate Studies Council

• The GSC, under the direction of former Chairperson Louann Bierlein Palmer, was asked to address a number of council charges in addition to its regular work to review graduate curriculum proposals.
• During the 2018-9 academic year, the GSC reviewed 29 curriculum proposals.

In the coming year, both USC and GSC will be asked to consider best practices and recommend procedures to award academic credit for professional/industry experience for non-traditional students.
Academic and Information Technology Council

- Continue to evaluate data security and existing policies related to mobile devices.
- Work with Student Information Team to have “preferred name” used in Banner.

Research Policies Council

- Recommend best practices to communicate research and creative activities and highlighting the accomplishment in research and creative activity by faculty and share them with the office of Marketing and Strategic Communications.
- Conduct annual review of the state of research ethics and policies and procedures in collaboration with the Office of the Vice President for Research.
- Work towards the development of a more comprehensive policy approach to intellectual property matters.
Campus Planning and Finance Council

• Review and provide input into campus construction projects and campus submaster plan that are in various stages of planning:
  o Arcadia Flats
  o WMU Student Center
  o College of Aviation, Battle Creek
  o Hill Top Project (South Neighborhood Development)
• Review Strategic Resource Management funding model and how it will affect various academic program initiatives on campus as well as future space allocation issues.
International Education Council

- Develop and recommend best practices for ensuring that international students at WMU are made to feel welcome and directly connect with U.S. based students in real and meaningful ways.
- Continue to develop best practices for advancing shared classroom instruction and collaborative projects between multiple university sites including WMU.
- Will be working on strategies for helping faculty to find ways to internationalize the curriculum with respect to their own work.
WMU Honorary Degree Policy

The Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs in cooperation with the Faculty Senate has undertaken a major revision of the University’s current Honorary Degree policy.

The purpose of awarding an Honorary Degree is to recognize persons of exceptional scholarly, artistic, professional, or humanitarian achievement who exemplify the mission of Western Michigan University and whose career or lifetime accomplishments serve as models of University ideals and aspirations for its students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

This past Wednesday, WMU granted an Honorary Degree to Dr. Bojie Fu from Beijing University. Dr. Fu is a world renown scholar in the area of landscape ecology and management.
The following represents the four proposed categories of Honorary degrees:

- **Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa (L.H.D.):** given to persons with outstanding achievement in the humanities.
- **Doctor of Science, honoris causa (Sc.D.):** given to persons with outstanding contributions to and service in the sciences.
- **Doctor of Letters, honoris causa (Litt.D.):** given to outstanding scholars in specific disciplines, exclusive of the sciences and humanities.
- **Doctor of Laws, honoris causa (L.L.D.):** given to persons with outstanding service to humankind at large, to learning, and/or institutions benefiting the public.

Nominations will be solicited annually by the Honorary Degree Scholastic Committee Chair in collaboration with the President's Chief of Staff. A call for nominations will be announced at the start of the academic year in the fall.
Ad Hoc Committee for Interdisciplinary Academic Study

• In April 2019, the Faculty Senate Executive Board established the formation of an ad hoc committee to examine the current practices of interdisciplinary academic study at WMU and evaluate both opportunities and challenges going forward.

• This committee will be charged with understanding the different types of interdisciplinary academic programs that currently exist at WMU. The committee will also be asked to provide a set of recommended strategies with the goal of helping to advance interdisciplinary academic study at WMU.

• The committee has been selected and has already met once this month with another meeting scheduled for next week.
Thank you.