

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Minutes of 1 October 2020**

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate was called to order at 5:04 p.m. on 1 October 2020, via Webex video conferencing by Marilyn Kritzman, president. The recording secretary was present.

Roll Call: There were 68 members and substitutes present, and 25 guests.

Members Present: Osama Abudayyeh, Onur Arugaslan, JoAnn Atkin, Upul Attanayake, Suzan Ayers, Louann Bierlein Palmer, Amy Bocko, Sunday Bonifas, Christopher Cheatham (for Jennifer Bott), Stephanie Burns, Jim Butterfield, Steven Carr, Stephen Covell, Lisa DeChano-Cook, Anthony DeFulio, Heidi Douglas-Vogley, Michael Famiano (interim Physics representative), Maria Fava, David Flanagan, Yvonne Ford, Richard Gershon, Maria Gigante, Sandra Glista, Lori Gray, Decker Hains, Keith Hearit, Don Hoover, Mark Hurwitz, Antonio Isea, Beth Jarl (interim Family and Consumer Sciences representative), Dean Johnson, Vyacheslav Karpov, Dae Kim, Jean Kimmel, Terri Kinzy, Marilyn Kritzman, Valerian Kwigizile, Mary Lagerwey, Douglas Lepisto, Debra Lindstrom, Nathan Lisak, Thayma Lutz, Candy McCorkle, Matthew Mingus, Edward Montgomery, Reza Mousavi, Dave Nofsinger, Kelsey Paschich, Kelley Pattison, David Paul, John Petrovic, Susan Piazza, Troy Place, David Rudge, Linda Schmidt, Larry Simon, C. Dennis Simpson, Scott Slawinski, Vivan Steemers (for Olivia Gabor-Peirce), Sarah Summy, Marianne Swierenga, David Szabla, Jeff Terpstra, Joyashish Thakurta, Yu-Lien The, Jan Van Der Kley, Andre Venter, Andrew Zolp

Members Absent: Steve Bertman, Jody Brylinsky, Clifton Ealy, Pavel Ikononov, Kyle Jehnzen, John Jellies, Mariam Konate, Peter Krawutschke, Parviz Merati, Alexandra Pekarovicoa, Staci Perryman-Clark, William Rantz, Mickey Rosalez, Tim Scheu, Vince Torano, Zeljka Vidic

Guests: Manuel Bautista, Physics; Michele Behr, University Libraries; Tom Birkenbach, Office of Information Technology; Jeff Breneman, Vice President for Government Relations; Steve Butt, Dean, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Dean, Graduate College; Ann Chapeau, Occupational Therapy; Sara Clark, Occupational Therapy; Carrick Craig, General Counsel; Paula Davis, Director of Strategic Communications; Derek Diget, Office of Information Technology; Kimberly Doudna, Ad Hoc Committee for Interdisciplinary Academic Studies; Michael Elwell, Ad Hoc Committee for Interdisciplinary Academic Studies; Marcia Fetters, Associate Dean, College of Education and Human Development; Brett Geier, Educational Leadership, Research, and Technology; Bryon Glock, WMUx; Carla Koretsky, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Kristine Lemmer, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering; Ming Li, Dean, College of Education and Human Development; Colin MacCreery, Computer Science; Selena Protacio, Special Education and Literacy Studies; Chitra Singh, Family and Consumer Sciences; Taylor West, President, Western Student Association; Thomas Wolf, Chief Information Officer; Steve Wolfenbarger, Music

Staff Present: Sue Brodasky, Suzanne. Davenport

Quorum

A quorum was present 55 Senators of the 42 needed for quorum signed in.

Agenda

It was moved by Hearit, seconded by Ayers, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Minutes

It was moved by Kinzy, seconded by Piazza, to approve the 17 September minutes as presented. The motion carried.

Reports of Officers

Faculty Senate President Kritzman's report included understanding of questions surrounding the recent Federal Memorandum 20-34 regarding diversity training and how it relates to WMU. The Faculty Senate Executive Board will meet with the University's president, general counsel, provost and vice president for academic affairs in order to share appropriate updates at an upcoming Faculty Senate meeting.

At the 17 September Senate meeting action was taken on MOA-20/07: Revision of the Organizational Changes of Academic Units to invite faculty voice during Senate recommendation discussions regarding program reorganization and elimination. Additional questions were raised at that meeting regarding items 4 and 7. A complete read of the document reveals that items 7 & 8 cover the documentation questions raised regarding item 4. Regarding Item 7, all proposals are first vetted through each college curriculum committee, which fall within the purview of the college dean. It is hoped that full discussion occurs there. Item 7 requires a closer review as well as the entire document. Please remember that any recommendation from the Senate is just that, a recommendation. All decisions rest with the provost.

This meeting is the last Faculty Senate meeting that staff member Suzanne Davenport will be attending due to her upcoming retirement. Since December 1979 Suzanne has provided over 40 years of continuous service to the Faculty Senate, having started at Western in March of 1979. Suzanne is turning in her computer, and her files and entering the post-WMU world of retirement on 31 October 2020. All organizations have key touchstones, elements that bind and guide and govern. The WMU Faculty Senate has the Constitution, Bylaws, and Suzanne Davenport. One of the most important roles in any organization is to have an individual of consistent viewpoint and perspective. For most of her 41 plus years at WMU Suzanne Davenport has been that person for the Senate. For all the past and present Senate leadership and Senators, Suzanne has moved them from naïve to at least mediocre. Suzanne has helped all to understand the true nature of service, and governance, and always in the best interest of the governed. There are not even enough thanks to be given to Suzanne for all that she has given. On behalf of the WMU Faculty Senate, Suzanne Davenport was presented with an honorary Senate resolution.

WHEREAS, Suzanne Davenport has devoted her career at Western Michigan University to assuring shared governance would be the consistent basis for the University; and
WHEREAS, Suzanne Davenport has been a role model for quiet and directed competence in stressful, dynamic, and complex situations; and
WHEREAS, Suzanne Davenport has always demonstrated courage, meaning speaking truth to power, and showing grace under stress; and
WHEREAS, Suzanne Davenport has been the one consistent reason the WMU Faculty Senate has maintained and enhanced its role in shared governance; and
WHEREAS, Suzanne Davenport educated and trained innumerable Senate leaders and Senators to competence in their roles; and
WHEREAS, Suzanne Davenport has conducted her work as a role model for professionalism and competence.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Executive Board of the Faculty Senate of Western Michigan University, on this first day of October 2020, does recognize, congratulate, and commend Suzanne Davenport for her decades of service toward the betterment of Western Michigan University.

Remarks of WMU President Edward Montgomery included the Tri-Board meeting which is comprised of representatives from the Board of Trustees, the Alumni Board, and the WMU Foundation Board. The Tri-Board is working in earnest on building committees and developing strategies for the WMU comprehensive capital campaign, a large-scale undertaking that will make a substantial contribution to the University's future. More will be shared about the campaign in the future.

A message was recently distributed about the state budget that Governor Gretchen Whitmer has signed. While the news of flat funding for the fiscal year 2020-21 for higher education appropriation was good, it does not mask the fact that WMU and the State are looking down the road at significant budgetary difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. There is much uncertainty about many factors that affect WMU's budget and finances, and the primary goals are to proceed on a conservative course and do everything to ensure stable economic footing for the future.

The Faculty Senate Executive Board is in the process of creating the Fallen Broncos initiative to memorialize faculty, staff, and students who have been lost during the academic year. It is very important to take time to pause, reflect, and honor the work and contributions that the unique individuals who have been part of the institution have made. Our colleagues deserve a sincere and dignified remembrance, and it is appreciated that a tradition is being establishing for them.

Earlier in 2020 a call for applications to the inaugural class of Western Michigan University Named Term-Limited Professorships was distributed. Many outstanding applications for these positions were received. Appreciation was stated for the members of the two committees, one which established the review criteria to allow for a rigorous and equitable selection process, and the second committee that used those criteria to select the recipients. While the selection process moved forward as planned, COVID-19 delayed the announcement until appropriate recognition could be provided to these highly deserving faculty members. The three recipients who were selected developed projects that demonstrate substantial, innovative contributions in teaching and research for the benefit of our students and toward the greater good. They will each receive a three-year award to support the advancement of the concepts that they proposed in their applications. As part of their professorship these thought leaders will engage in dialogue on their work and serve as role models of excellence and innovation at WMU. Their proposals exemplify the contributions that WMU's best and brightest can make in addressing important societal challenges. The three recipients are:

- Dr. Upul Attanayake, associate professor of Civil and Construction Engineering in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Dr. Attanayake will conduct studies on a field diagnostic technique for detecting alkali-silica reactivity in concrete. He will also engage students in work to look at how advancements in public safety might be made by addressing deteriorating conditions in the U.S. transportation infrastructure.
- Dr. Ann Chapleau, professor of Occupational Therapy in the College of Health and Human Services. Dr. Chapleau will explore asylum life before Thorazine. Dr. Chapleau's work was chosen because of its innovative concepts in the research of psychiatric illnesses and the use of historic records from one of our community partners to advance modern treatments to this major public health problem.
- Dr. Matt Reeves, associate professor of Geological and Environmental Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences. His work focuses on developing innovative approaches for investigating environmental fate and transport of per and polyfluoralkyl substances. Widespread PFAS contamination and associated ecosystem and human health impacts is one of the most significant emerging environmental crises in a generation, and this work will provide critical groundwork and educational opportunities to lead in solving this problem.

Remarks of the Vice Provost for Budget and Personnel Christopher Cheatham included:

- Fall 2020 Enrollment Update (compared to Fall 2019)
 - Undergraduate Students
 - Headcount down 2.9%
 - Student Credit Hours down 6.2%
 - Graduate Students
 - Headcount down 10.9%
 - Student Credit Hours down 8.5%
 - Total Students
 - Headcount count down 4.6%
 - Student Credit Hours down 6.5%
 - International Students
 - Headcount increased 17.4% This increase includes 585 students who are enrolled in the 4+0 program with Guizhou University of Finance and Economics
 - First-Time in Any College (FTIAC)
 - Incoming class of FTIACs was 2,597 (9.4% decrease compared to Fall 2019). Special acknowledgment to the Office of Admissions for its rapid switch to virtual offering for tours, admission counselor meetings, and many other offerings.

- Spring 2021 Registration Calendar Change: the spring 2020 registration calendar was slightly changed to allow more time for faculty to make decisions about instructional method and still provide a two-week viewable window before registration goes live.
- Flat-rate Tuition Scholarships: because of the way that tuition rules are structured, undergraduate students who are enrolled in all online courses for the fall 2020 semester were not eligible for flat-rate tuition. Lower- and upper-level resident students were negatively affected. For these students a scholarship between \$150 and \$1250 will be disbursed to their accounts to correct for the tuition difference.

Discussion included faculty being minimally affected even though enrollment is better than expected due to the continued budget uncertainty, some comparisons to other Michigan universities were given, the impact on tuition due to distance learning, and the delay in the Strategic Resource Management due to the delay in booked budget.

Reports of Faculty Senate Councils and Committees

Ad Hoc Committee on Interdisciplinary Academic Studies members Kimberly Doudna and Michael Elwell provided the report of the committee that included four perspectives to identify and advance interdisciplinary academic studies along with collaborative recommendations.

(https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2020/IAS%20Committee%20Report.FINAL_0.pdf)

Discussion included proposed new interdisciplinary institute, interdisciplinary research, interdisciplinary majors, and the possibility of interdisciplinary faculty sabbaticals.

Reports of University Committees

Vice President for Government Relations Jeff Breneman presented details of the We Talk initiative, geared toward having diverse conversations within the academic environment. (<https://wmich.edu/wetalk>)

The WMU Athletic Board 2019 report was provided by Lisa DeChano-Cook which focused on academic highlights of WMU athletic students.

(<https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2020/AthleticBoard.10-1-20.pdf>)

Discussion included an inquiry of the number of COVID-19 cases among WMU athletes, which was referred to Director of Athletics Kathy Beauregard.

Unfinished Business

At the September 17 meeting the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws amendments were offered for a first reading, motion, and support. It had been moved and seconded to approve the Constitution amendments. There was no discussion. The motion carried. It had been moved and seconded to approve the Bylaws amendments. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

New Business

WMU General Counsel Carrick Craig provided the annual Email Access Report. Since March 2019 no request have been made, therefore no access has been approved or granted.

Executive Board Director Decker Hains expressed continued support for MOA-19/04: Creation of Student Expectation Attendance Policy. WMU's Veteran and Military Students Service Oversight Committee asked that faculty be reminded of MOA-19/04 which includes expectations for faculty when addressing short-term military obligations. WMU has over 200 students currently serving in some capacity in the military. In fact, several are actively serving today due to the COVID-19 response mission. As faculty continue to provide world-class learning experiences to students, it is asked that faculty be aware of the extra demands being placed on some military students. Last year the Faculty Senate passed and the senior leadership approved MOA-19/04 which includes language specific to short-term military obligations. It states that "the University recognizes that those who are actively serving in the Military Reserves or National Guard of the United States are required by their military contract to attend mandatory training. Any sequential or non-sequential absence may total no more than 15% of scheduled class meeting time." The policy recognizes that "occasionally it may be necessary for a student to be

absent from a scheduled course activity. In all cases of possible accommodation for absence, it is expected that faculty will treat student requests with respect, and students must realize that only the instructor can excuse a student from a course requirement or responsibility, or assign make-up or alternative work.” The Office of Military and Veteran Affairs is a great resource for faculty and staff and is glad to help with any military student related issue.

Professional and Academic Concerns

Discussion included research library database elimination, and MOA-20/07: Revision of the Organizational Changes of Academic Units whereas a complete read of the document reveals that items 7 & 8 cover the documentation questions raised regarding item 4, and that all proposals are first vetted through each college curriculum committee, which fall within the purview of the college dean. It is hoped that full discussion occurs there in order to cover Item 7.

Adjournment

It was moved by Ford, seconded by Atkin, to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m. The motion carried.

The Faculty Senate will meet next on 5 November 2020 via Webex at 5 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator and Recording Secretary

Minutes approved this ____ day of _____ 2020