

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 13 October 2020**

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Undergraduate Studies Council was called to order at 3:02 pm on 13 October 2020, via Webex virtual video conferencing by Clifton Ealy, chair.

Roll Call

Members in Attendance: Jessica Birnbaum, Deanna Bush, Carrie Cumming, Michael Duffy, Clifton Ealy, Steven Eberth, Bruce Ferrin, Kate LaLonde, Eli Lantz (Western Student Association), Irma Lopez, Colin MacCreery, Dianna Sachs, Daniela Schroeter, Nicolas Witschi

Members Absent: Jessica Birnbaum, Steven Eberth

Academic Advising Liaison in Attendance: Betsy Drummer

Advisory Member in Attendance: Edwin Martini

Ex Officio in Attendance: Sarah Summy

Guest: Shawn Tenney, Chairperson, Service Learning Course Approval Subcommittee

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Agenda

It was moved by Schroeter, seconded by Summy, to accept the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

It was moved by LaLonde, seconded by Schroeter, to approve the minutes of 8 September 2020. With two abstentions the motion carried.

Reports of Officers

Chair Ealy thanked the council officers for participating in the agenda setting process.

Ex Officio Summy reminded the council that the Faculty Senate Snapshot is posted on the Senate website for the reference of all faculty. The next Senate meeting is 5 November at 5 p.m. A link to attend the meeting will be on the Faculty Senate website.

Witschi defined his role on this council. He will be the individual who will facilitate the smooth passage of curriculum proposals and will be serving on this council as the designee for the provost and vice president for academic affairs. He reiterated commitment that the curriculum belongs to the faculty, and that the provost supports this as an element of shared governance.

MacCreery joined the meeting at 3:21 pm.

Reports of Council Subcommittees

The report of the Intellectual Skills Program Advisory Committee was postponed.

The Service Learning Course Approval Subcommittee chair Tenney noted that several opportunities for Service Learning courses were in development prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the switch to remote learning. The subcommittee is not currently meeting, and does not expect to meet again until the University can return to in-person instruction. Tenney will be meeting with the Graduate Studies Council at its next meeting on 22 October 2020.

Tenney left the meeting at 3:28 p.m.

Unfinished Business

It was moved by Summy, seconded by LaLonde, to accept changes to the description of membership of the Transfer of Credit Committee. With one abstention the motion carried.

Lopez joined the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

It was moved by Cumming, seconded by Summy, to approve changes to the description of membership of the Intellectual Skills Program Advisory Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Ferrin, seconded by Bush, to elect Michael Duffy as USC Ex Officio member of the Intellectual Skills Program Advisory Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Ferrin noted that charge #3: Guideline to decide whether a newly established bachelor's degree is a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science was carried over from last academic year. Witschi will gather preliminary information on how other schools address this issue to provide a basis for future discussion.

Announcements

Martini provided a brief overview of the work being done to establish the University College, including the integration of the OneWMU initiative, the WMU Signature Program, the Center for Academic Skills Center, the Office of Student Transitions, Student Success Services, and WMU Success. Martini referred to the new leadership structure of the unit. Martini explained that some courses and degrees in the University Studies curriculum will be administered through University College.

Lentz asked for perspectives on the idea of the University allowing prospective students to choose whether or not to submit standardized test scores. Several members noted that the University is likely to be moving to a test-optional model for the next academic year.

Ferrin was asked by Faculty Senate President Marilyn Kritzman to participate on a committee as part of the Excellence in Academic Advising initiative. He will share information about this committee with the council as appropriate. Martini will provide Ealy with a list of all committees that are part of this initiative.

Adjournment

It was moved by MacCreery, seconded by Summy, to adjourn the meeting at 4:11 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

The Undergraduate Studies Council will meet next on 10 November 2020, in a Webex virtual meeting at 3 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Dianna E. Sachs, Secretary

Minutes approved this tenth day of November 2020.