

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Minutes of 4 February 2021**

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate was called to order at 5:03 p.m. on 4 February 2021, via Webex video conferencing by Marilyn Kritzman, president. The recording secretary was present.

Roll Call: There were 69 members and substitutes present, and 30 guests.

Members Present: Osama Abudayyeh, Julie Apker, Onur Arugaslan, JoAnn Atkin, Upul Attanayake, Steve Bertman, Amy Bocko, Sunday Bonifas, Jennifer Bott, Jody Brylinsky, Stephanie Burns, James Butterfield, Steven Carr, Stephen Covell, Lisa DeChano-Cook, Anthony DeFulio, Clifton Ealy, Maria Fava, Yvonne Ford, Maria Gigante, Lori Gray, Decker Hains, Keith Hearit, Mark Hurwitz, Pavel Ikonov, John Jellies, Dean Johnson, Vyacheslav Karpov, Jean Kimmel, Terri Kinzy, Tetyana Koshmanova, Marilyn Kritzman, Valerian Kwigizile, Mary Lagerwey, Douglas Lepisto, Debra Lindstrom, Nathan Lisak, Thayma Lutz, Molly Lynde-Recchia, Candy McCorkle, Parviz Merati, Matthew Mingus, Edward Montgomery, Reza Mousavi, Joshua Naranjo, Dave Nofsinger, David Paul, Staci Perryman-Clark, John Petrovic, Susan Piazza, Troy Place, William Rantz, David Rudge, Linda Schmidt, Larry Simon, C. Dennis Simpson, Lisa Singleterry (substitute for Kelley Pattison), Scott Slawinski, Sarah Summy, Marianne Swierenga, David Szabla, Joyashish Thakurta, Yu-Lien The, Vince Torano, Jan Van Der Kley, Andre Venter, Zeljka Vidic, German Zarate-Sandez (substitute for Antonio Isea), Andrew Zolp

Members Absent: Suzan Ayers, Heidi Douglas-Vogley, David Flanagan, Sandra Glista, Don Hoover, Beth Jarl, Kyle Jehnzen, Dae Kim, Peter Krawutschke, Mariam Konate, Paul Pancella, Kelsey Paschich, Alexandra Pekarovicova, Mickey Rosalez, Tim Scheu, Ralph Tanner

Guests: Eric Archer, Education Leadership, Research, and Technology; Louann Bierlein Palmer, Education Leadership, Research, and Technology; Jeff Breneman, Vice President for Government Relations; Steve Butt, Dean, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Dean, Graduate College; Christopher Cheatham, Vice Provost for Business and Personnel; Lynn Chen-Zhang, Chair, WMU Board of Trustees; Ron Cisler, Dean, College of Health and Human Services; Paula Davis, Director of Strategic Communications; Derek Diget, Office of Information Technology; Laura DeThorne, Chair, Speech, Language, Hearing Science; Mioara Diaconu, Social Work; Kristal Ehrhardt, Special Education and Literacy Studies; Julie Garrison, Dean, University Libraries; Brett Geier, Education Leadership, Research, and Technology; Bryon Glock, WMUx; Janet Hahn, Interdisciplinary Health Programs; David Huffman, Chemistry; Philip Johnson, Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology; Carrie Leatherman, University Libraries; Ramona Lewis, Education Leadership, Research, and Technology; Nancy Mansberger, Director, Academic Labor Relations and Contract Negotiations; Shannon McMorrow, Interdisciplinary Health Programs; Kari Montgomery, WMU First Lady; Laura Probyn, Executive Communications Specialist, Marketing and Strategic Communications; Kahler Schuemann, Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board of Trustees; Dee Sherwood, Social Work; Udaya Wagle, Director, Public Affairs and Administration; Thomas Wolf, Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Technology; Paulo Zagalo-Melo, Associate Provost for Haenicke Institute for Global Education

Faculty Senate Staff Present: Sue Brodasky

Quorum

A quorum was present with 69 Senators in attendance of the 45 needed to establish quorum.

Agenda

It was moved by Simpson, seconded by Petrovitch, to amend the agenda to place the remarks of WMU Board of Trustee Chair Lynn Chen-Zhang as the first item on the agenda, immediately following the approval of the amended agenda. The motion carried.

It was moved by DeChano-Cook, seconded by Atkins, to accept the agenda as amended. The motion carried.

Remarks of Lynn Chen-Zhang, Chair, WMU Board of Trustees

Trustee Chen-Zhang expressed appreciation for the invitation to speak to the Faculty Senate. Due to prior commitments Trustee Chen-Zhang was unable to be in attendance for the report of the International Education Council on global engagement. She had a chance to preview the presentation and she strongly believes globalization is an important topic for every university in the U.S. The world keeps getting smaller, and it is vital that WMU works to strengthen its connections around the globe. Western is doing an excellent job, though there are still potential avenues for growth and engagement. WMU must continue to explore the possibilities and create new opportunities to serve the students and make a global impact. Trustee Chen-Zhang noted that the Faculty Senate is working collaboratively on establishing traditions that resonate with the Board of Trustees by honoring Broncos who have passed away at the Fallen Broncos Ceremony. In addition, a new recognition program for retiring faculty the Last Lecture Series. The Faculty Senate is one of three shared governance partners with the Board of Trustees along with the Western Student Association and the Graduate Student Association. The partnerships are deeply valued and a strong faculty-based relationship. The Senate provides an important connection with the Board of Trustees on valuable academic efforts like WMU Essential Studies. Through its work the Board of Trustees is aware of operations and other University functions and appreciates the chance to communicate with its shared governance partners. The Board of Trustees is very grateful for the huge effort that the faculty made to adjust to the challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic. It is truly impressive how the faculty revised 5,000 class sections for online learning in a matter of days last March. And the work that it took in the summer to plan for classes through the five possible modalities. The way that the faculty continue to work to provide our students an excellent education in this very difficult time is appreciated. Western Michigan University is focused on student success. To attract great students who go on to find success, it needs strong academics and excellent faculty. A survey of 2019-20 graduates showed that 98% of WMU graduates had at least one instructor who made them excited about learning. Also, 91% felt that their instructors cared about them as a person. Faculty is critical to the University and is at the center of WMU's mission. The Board of Trustees recognizes the University still faces challenges going forward, but the Board firmly believes that by continuing to communicate and work toward shared beliefs in the importance of educating students, doing great research, and helping address society's problems Western Michigan University will have a very bright future. In summation Trustee Chen-Zhang expressed appreciation to the Faculty Senate for being a great partner in shared governance with the Board of Trustees, and for its contributions to WMU.

Minutes

It was moved by Mingus, seconded by DeChano-Cook, to approve the 3 December 2020 minutes as presented. The motion carried.

Reports of Officers

WMU President Edward Montgomery remarks included the Higher Learning Commission accreditation being important on many levels for WMU and affects every part of campus. Beyond ensuring that WMU has met high standards and completed a rigorous peer review process, it demonstrates the commitment to fulfilling the mission and continuously striving for improvement. Many individuals across campus have been engaged and participated in efforts to complete each step in the Higher Learning Commission's timeline. All of those efforts are appreciated. The HLC will conduct an online survey of all of spring 2020 students with results being used by the peer review team to verify information presented in WMU's assurance argument. Components of the HLC's comprehensive evaluation process are currently being drafted, although the process has been modified due to COVID-19 it is still on track with the reaffirmation and accreditation site visit scheduled for April 12 and 13, 2021. The first Board of Trustees meeting of the new year was last week. Lynn Chen-Zhang, an alumna and partner in Zhang Financial investment services was elected as chair, and William Johnston, also an alum, who is president and chair of the Greenleaf Companies, was elected as vice chair. Two new trustees were welcomed, Kurtis Trevan and Alan Turfe. Kurtis Trevan is an alumnus. He is the co-founder and CEO of Gun Lake Investments. He is a citizen of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomini Indians and previously served as the treasurer for the Tribal Council and as a member of the Gun Lake Casino Board of Directors. Alan Turfe

is a private equity consultant and strategic advisory to firms in medical devices, life science and health care mergers and acquisitions. He formerly served as chairman and CEO of J M Smith Corp., the fourth-largest pharmaceutical distribution company in the U.S. Both individuals bring valued experience and insight to the Board. WMU received \$24.87 million in the most recent federal stimulus. This most recent amount is in addition to the \$15.4 million that the University received from CARES Act funding last year. Half of these CARES Act funds, \$7.7 million, were distributed to students last year as required. The new funding requires an additional \$7.7 million to be disbursed to students, but WMU will strive to provide half of the funding to students (\$12.4 million). A plan is being finalized to disburse these funds by mid-February to students through a simplified "block grant" approach, perhaps with one to three tiers, as the legislation suggests the prioritization of students with "exceptional need." President Montgomery echoed Trustee Chen-Zhang's statements on WMU global engagement efforts and complimented the International Education Council for its great work. The Faculty Senate is at the center of interdisciplinarity and had been critical in shaping the University with shared governance.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jennifer Bott offered congratulations to newly elected chair of the Board of Trustees Lynn Chen-Zhang. WMU is planning to return to a future normal in-person fall 2021 semester. She reiterated a motivational antidote from a master of social work student that was inspired by faculty in service to WMU students and the Kalamazoo community.

Questions included: COVID-19 vaccinations and health department designations, COVID-19 testing schedule and the option of required testing.

Faculty Senate President Kritzman's report included the following:

A moment of silence was observed for Tenho Connable, Computer Science an emeriti faculty that passed away. Newly elected Faculty Senator Joshua Naranjo, Statistics was recognized. The Faculty Senate Constitution amendments based on recommendations from the internal 2019-20 Senate Restructuring Committee were approved at the October 1, 2020 Senate meeting and then submitted to the entire faculty for a vote. By November 3, 2020, the amendments were approved by a majority of the WMU faculty who voted. As required by Article IX, Sec. 3 of the Constitution, an amendment to this constitution shall become effective upon approval by a majority of the member of the faculty voting on the proposed amendments, by the president of the University, and by the Board of Trustees of the University. A copy of the amendments, which permit the Faculty Senate to be more responsive to the needs of faculty, were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its January 21, 2021 meeting. The Faculty Senate Executive Board has recommended to Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jennifer Bott that the WMU Essential Studies program and the University Studies degree be housed in the newly formed University College. In addition, the Executive Board supported the University's efforts in adopting a new electronic curriculum platform. This new platform will increase efficiency and make it easier to track curriculum proposals. The Executive Board accepted the Last Lecture Series workgroup report and is moving forward into the implementation phase of the project. The Last Lecture Series is a collaborative effort between the Faculty Senate, the President's Office, the Provost's Office, Marketing and Strategic Communication, and University Advancement. The on-going initiative will provide retiring faculty an opportunity to share career-closing thoughts with colleagues, students, alumni, family, and friends as well as providing recognition for the faculty from the University, students, and colleagues. As a regularly scheduled assessment of the WMU campus leadership, the Faculty Senate will be conducting a survey-appraisal of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jennifer Bott. Participation is voluntary, but the Faculty Senate requests your feedback to assure the best possible information regarding faculty views on only the Provost's performance throughout her tenure at WMU. The survey will be available from 8 a.m. February 9, 2021 through 5 p.m. February 22, 2021. An email with a link to the survey will be distributed to all faculty on February 9. The Faculty Senate Executive Board recognized two faculty who retired as of August 30, as part of the early retirement incentive, that have contributed significantly to the Faculty Senate and WMU. First is Sharon Carlson:

WHEREAS, Sharon Carlson over a 33-year career at Western Michigan University, dedicated herself to the furtherance of Higher Education in the Academy of Scholars through her deep and abiding commitment to University Libraries as well as to the overall University; and

WHEREAS, Sharon Carlson took on a variety of roles at the University which included, but were not limited to, Professor of the Libraries, Director of the Western Michigan University Archives and Reginal History Collections, Archives Curator, Archivist/Research Assistant, Coordinator of Certification Services at the WMU Specialty Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse, member of the Michigan Historical Review Board of Editors, member of numerous national, regional, and state committees, and member/vice president of the WMU Faculty Senate Executive Board; and

WHEREAS, Sharon Carlson worked on the Story Mapping Western Michigan University Campus project, completed several digitization projects including the Focus New, Augustinian, Kalamazoo News, and Western Herald, implemented web archiving using Archive-It.org, was a principle investigator on the Michigan Electronic Libraries grant to digitize Civil War diaries, redesigned and implemented instructional programs for University classes and community outreach, implemented indexing projects for the Western News and Western Herald, and mentored numerous undergraduate and graduate students; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Executive Board of the Faculty Senate of Western Michigan University, on this 4th day of February 2021, does recognize, congratulate, and commend Sharon Carlson for her dedication and contributions toward the enhancement and betterment of Western Michigan University.

Next is Judith Rypma:

WHEREAS, Judith Rypma, over a 25-year career at Western Michigan University, has dedicated herself to the furtherance of literary creativity in Higher Education through her deep and abiding commitment to the education and service learning of both undergraduate and graduate students and the mentoring of faculty and staff members in her role as Master Faculty Specialist within the Department of English.

WHEREAS, Judith Rypma advanced many initiatives, which included, but were not limited to, Chair of the Children's Literature Committee; the developer of the Study Abroad Program to Pushkin and Saint Petersburg, Russia; Vice President of the Kalamazoo Russian Cultural Association; Co-director of the Russian Festival; Designer of many Student Service Learning Projects in Children's Literature, Kalamazoo-Pushkin Partnership, Foundation for Art and Music in Elementary Education, as well as fundraising support efforts for medical, educational, orphanage and food shipments to Kalamazoo's sister-city, Pushkin, Russia.

WHEREAS, Judith Rypma has been a valued and trusted colleague, connecting faculty, administration, and the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate in furtherance of the principles of shared governance, as well as in her past service to the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate as a member of the Executive Board, Department Senator, Professional Concerns Committee, Academic Integrity Panel, Committee to Oversee Department of Public Safety, and the Nominations and Elections Committee. In every way her work was exemplary.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Executive Board of the Faculty Senate of Western Michigan University, on this 4th day of February 2021, does recognize, congratulate, and commend Judith Rypma for her dedication and contributions toward the enhancement and betterment of Western Michigan University.

Reports of Faculty Senate Councils and Committees

Chair of the Graduate Studies Council Julie Apker reported that the Graduate Studies Council recommends the removal of the University Graduate Record Examination (GRE) requirement for all doctoral programs and allow departments to decide whether they want to continue this requirement for their specific doctoral programs. This would be similar to what is currently in place for master's degree programs at WMU. It was moved by Apker, seconded by Jellies to approve [MOA-20/08](#). The motion carried.

Chair of the International Education Council James Butterfield, and Vice Chair Eric Archer provided a presentation about Global Engagement at WMU which included the topics of desired skills/knowledge

and student success, comparison of WMU to peer institutions, WMU global initiatives, student experiences, WMU global engagement strengths, new partnership institutions, and challenges.
<https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2021/20210204-GlobalEngagement-IEC.pdf>

New Business

Vice President for Government Affairs Jeffrey Breneman provided a Legislative update. The second major COVID-19 stimulus from the Federal Government for \$40 million was received by WMU. \$12 million will be distributed to students with needs. Institutional funding will be used for increased COVID-19 testing, classroom cleaning, and distance learning modifications. There is the potential for additional COVID-19 stimulus that will include state and local government relief. It is an ambitious plan, but he is optimistic it will pass. Before the pandemic higher learning had received a 1% increase to funding from the State. COVID-19 changed everything with a projected 11% cut to higher education. The State held a revenue estimating conference which indicated there have been some one-time revenue increases, such as income tax and online sales tax. Less than 30% of the WMU budget is derived from State funding. Tuition revenue is much more impactable to WMU.

Professional and Academic Concerns

Meeting Moderator Decker Hains stated that a Professional and Academic Concerns was received prior to the meeting from Professor David Rudge, Biological Sciences. He asked for clarification on distribution of COVID-19 vaccines at WMU. The campus community was given the opportunity to complete an informational form to be placed on a waiting list, but there has been little detail regarding when distribution of vaccines would start. Should faculty pursue vaccination by other means such as local pharmacies, and what advice is there for spouses, partners, or dependents. President Kritzman reported that the Kalamazoo Health Department organizes vaccine disbursement. There will be a more detailed update at the 4 March 2021 Faculty Senate meeting. For notices from the WMU COVID-19 Task Force visit the website at: <https://wmich.edu/vaccine/faqs>

Senator Lisa DeChano-Cook, Geography, announced the climate change mini-grants opportunity. The submission date is 15 March. For details or questions view the linked handout.
<https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2021/2021%20WMU%20Climate%20Change%20Teaching%20Fellows%20Mini-Grants.pdf>

Adjournment

It was moved by DeChano-Cook, seconded by Atkin, to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. The motion carried. The Faculty Senate will meet next on 4 March 2021 via Webex Events at 5 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator and Recording Secretary.

Minutes approved this fourth day of March 2021.