

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Minutes of 13 May 2021

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate was called to order at 5:05 p.m. on 13 May 2021, via Webex video conferencing by Marilyn Kritzman, president. The recording secretary was present.

Roll Call: There were 64 members and substitutes present, and 46 guests.

Members Present: Osama Abudayyeh, Julie Apker, Pnina Ari-Gur, JoAnn Atkin, Upul Attanayake, Suzan Ayers, Amy Bocko, Sunday Bonifas, Jennifer Bott, Jody Brylinsky, Joseph Buckley, Stephanie Burns, Zbigniew Chajewski, Steve Covell, Anthony DeFulio, Suma Devanga, Maria Fava, Yvonne Ford, Maria Gigante, Sandra Glista, Janet Hahn, Decker Hains, Trey Harris, Chansheng He, Keith Hearit, Don Hoover, Mark Hurwitz, Pavel Ikononov, Antonio Isea, John Jellies, Philip Johnson, Dean Johnson, Vyacheslav Karpov, Jean Kimmel, Tetyana Koshmanova, Marilyn Kritzman, Valerian Kwigizile, Douglas Lepisto, Debra Lindstrom, Nathan Lisak, Thayma Lutz, Parviz Merati, Matthew Mingus, Edward Montgomery, Amy Naugle, Dave Nofsinger, Kelley Pattison, Dave Paul, John Petrovic, Troy Place, William Rantz, Carol Wiedemann (substitute for Lori Reichel), David Rudge, Linda Schmidt, Larry Simon, C. Dennis Simpson, Scott Slawinski, Mohamed Sultan, Sarah Summy, Marianne Swierenga, David Szabla, Laura Teichert, Janice Van Der Kley, John Miller (substitute for Andre Venter), Shu Yang, Andrew Zolp

Members Absent: Onur Arugaslan, James Butterfield, Elise de Doncker, Clifton Ealy, David Flanagan, Susan Freeman, Lynne Heasley, Beth Jarl, Kyle Jehnzen, Dae Kim, Terri Kinzy, Candy McCorkle, Reza Mousavi, Joshua Naranjo, Kelsey Paschich, Alexandra Pekarovicova, Joshua Santos, Tim Scheu, Vince Torano,

Guests: Areal Anderson, Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies; Eric Archer, Education Leadership, Research, and Technology; Cathryn Bailey, Gender and Women's Studies; Michele Behr, University Libraries; Jeffrey Breneman, Vice President for Government Affairs; Steve Butt, Dean, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Dean, Graduate College; Christopher Cheatham, Vice Provost for Budget and Personnel; Ron Cisler, Dean, College of Health and Human Services; Paul Clements, Political Science; Carrie Cumming, Registrar; Paula Davis, Director, Marketing and Strategic Communications; Lisa DeChano-Cook, Geography, Environment, and Tourism; Satish Deshpande, Dean, Haworth College of Business; Heidi Douglas-Vogley, Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences; Michael Duffy, University Libraries; Steve Durbin, Electrical and Computer Engineering; Chad Edwards, Communication; Juliana Espinosa, University Libraries; Marcia Fetters, Associate Dean, College of Education and Human Development; Susan Freeman, Gender and Women's Studies; Muralidhar Ghantasala, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering; Bryon Glock, WMU; Monique Haley, Dance; Evan Heiser, Director, WMU Signature Program; Haylee Knowles, Provost Office; Carla Koretsky, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Todd Kuchta, English; Ramona Lewis, Education Leadership, Research, and Technology; Vincent Lyon-Callo, Sociology; Nancy Mansberger, Director, Academic Collective Bargaining; Edwin Martini, Associate Provost, WMU; Dawn Mason, Accountancy; Kelly McDonnell, Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology; John Miller, Chemistry; Staci Perryman-Clark, Chair, Institute for Intercultural and Anthropological Studies; David Powell, Dean, Aviation; Laura Probyn, Executive, Marketing and Strategic Communication; Geri Rinna, University Libraries; Jacinda Swanson, Political Science; Zeljka Vidic, Human Performance and Health Education; Bret Wagner, Marketing; Nicolas Witschi, Interim Curriculum Manager; Kelly Wittenberg, Communication; Paulo Zagalo-Melo, Associate Provost, Haenicke Institute for Global Education

Faculty Senate Staff Present: Sue Brodasky

Quorum

A quorum was present with 64 Senators in attendance of the 45 needed to establish quorum.

Agenda

It was moved by DeFulio, seconded by Simon, to postpone MOA-19/09 to another meeting date. The motion carried.

It was moved by Kimmel, seconded by Isea, to place Professional Concerns immediately following Officer and Ex Officio's reports. The motion carried.

It was moved by Mingus, seconded by Jellies, to make the Legislative Update the final report of Ex Officio's. The motion carried.

It was moved by Wiedemann, seconded by Petrovic, to accept the agenda as amended. The motion carried.

Minutes

It was moved by Simpson, seconded by Rantz, to approve the 8 April 2021 minutes as presented. With one abstention the motion carried.

Reports of Officers

Faculty Senate President Kritzman asked for a moment of silence to honor faculty emeriti that passed away since the Faculty Senate last met:

- Ellen Brinkley, English
- William Combs, Jr., English
- Lowell Crow, Marketing
- Norma Hungerford, Education
- Don Iffland, Chemistry
- Rachel Inselberg, Education
- George Miller, Education
- James D. Neill, Counseling Center
- Charles Osborne, Music
- Chester "Chet" B. Rogers, Political Science
- Quentin Smith, Philosophy
- Daneen Wardrop, English
- Karen Wicklund, Music

Faculty Senators who have completed their term of service as of April 30, 2021 were acknowledged:

- Steven Carr, Computer Science
- Steven Bertman, Environment and Sustainability
- Lisa DeChano-Cook, Geography, Environment, and Tourism
- Joyashish Thakurta, Geological and Environmental Science
- Zeljka Vidic, Human Performance and Health Education
- Lori Gray, Interdisciplinary Health Programs
- Mickey Rosalez, Military Science and Leadership
- Yu-Lien The, Music
- Staci Perryman-Clark, English
- Susan Piazza, Special Education and Literacy Studies
- Heidi Douglas-Vogley, Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences
- Molly Lynde-Recchia, World Languages and Literature

Appreciation was expressed to the re-elected Senators:

- Dae Kim, Blindness and Low Vision
- Stephen Covell, Comparative Religion
- David Szabla, Education Leadership, Research and Technology
- John Petrovic, Mathematics
- Parviz Merati, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

- Kelley Pattison, Nursing
- Don Hoover, Physical Therapy
- Slava Karpov, Sociology
- Antonio Isea, Spanish
- Tetyana Koshmanova, Teaching, Learning, Educational Studies
- David Nofsinger, Theatre
- Osama Abudayyeh, Representative-at-Large

Newly elected Senators were welcomed:

- Elise de Doncker, Computer Science
- Lynne Heasley, Environment and Sustainability
- Chansheng He, Geography, Environment, and Tourism
- Mohamed Sultan, Geological and Environmental Sciences
- Lori Reichel, Human Performance and Health Education
- Janet Hahn, Interdisciplinary Health Programs
- Joshua Santos, Military Science and Leadership
- Trey Harris, Music
- Laura Teichert, Special Education and Literacy Studies
- Suma Devanga, Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences
- Shu Yang, World Languages and Literatures
- Pnina Ari-Gur, Representative-at-Large
- Amy Naugle, Representative-at-Large
- Joseph Buckley, Emeriti Council Representative

The results of the Council elections were announced as follows:

Elected or appointed to the Academic and Information Technology Council:

- Pavel Ikononov, Engineering and Applied Sciences
- Geraldine Rinna, University Libraries
- Zoann Snyder, Arts and Sciences

Elected or appointed to the Campus Planning and Finance Council:

- LuMarie Guth, University Libraries
- Valerian Kwigizile, Engineering and Applied Sciences

Elected or appointed to the Graduate Studies Council:

- Julie Apker, Arts and Sciences

Elected or appointed to the International Education Council:

- Ellen Breakfield-Glick, Fine Arts
- David Huffman, Arts and Sciences
- Ann Miles, Arts and Sciences

Elected or appointed to the Research Policies Council:

- Onur Arugaslan, Business
- Wanda Hadley, Education and Human Development
- Daria Orłowska, University Libraries
- Andre Venter, Arts and Sciences

Elected or appointed to the Undergraduate Studies Council:

- Lori Gray, Representative-at-Large
- Mary-Louise Totton, Fine Arts
- Kelly Wittenberg – Arts and Sciences – Social Sciences

The Faculty Senate Executive Board recognized two faculty scheduled to retire that have contributed significantly to the Faculty Senate and WMU.

WHEREAS, Mary Lagerwey over a 26-year career at Western Michigan University, has provided the highest quality of leadership and service to the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate as its President, Vice President, Secretary, Director, and Senator; and

WHEREAS, Mary Lagerwey has assured the highest quality of research at Western Michigan University as Chair and Vice Chair of the WMU Human Subjects Institutional Review Board; and

WHEREAS, Mary Lagerwey has carried the Western Michigan University colors into the community as Chair and Vice Chair of the Michigan Public Health Association and the Midwest Nursing Research Society; and

WHEREAS, Mary Lagerwey has admirably led the Western Michigan University Bronson School of Nursing as its Director; and

WHEREAS, Mary Lagerwey will soon be initiating a new career as Oma (grandmother) of the century.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Executive Board of the Faculty Senate of Western Michigan University, on this 13th day of May 2021, does recognize, congratulate, and commend Mary Lagerwey for her dedication and contributions toward the enhancement and betterment of Western Michigan University.

WHEREAS, Yvonne Ford, over a 13-year career at Western Michigan University, dedicated herself to the furtherance of Higher Education in the Academy through her deep and abiding commitment to the Bronson School of Nursing as well as to the entire University; and

WHEREAS, Yvonne Ford advanced many initiatives, including her steadfast commitment to WMU Essential Studies as an inaugural member of the WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, Yvonne Ford has served on the Faculty Senate's Executive Board, the Professional Concerns Committee, the Fallen Bronco's Committee, the University Fall Contingency Planning Committee, and serving as the Faculty Senator for the Bronson School of Nursing; and

WHEREAS, Yvonne Ford has been a valued and trusted colleague in the furtherance of the principles of shared governance. In every way her work was exemplary.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Executive Board of the Faculty Senate of Western Michigan University, on this 13th day of May 2021, does recognize, congratulate, and commend Yvonne Ford for her dedication and contributions toward the enhancement and betterment of Western Michigan University.

President Kritzman shared key accomplishments of the Faculty Senate which occurred since May 7, 2020:

- The six council have held a combined total of 54 meetings
- The eight committees have held a combined total of 64 meetings
- The four workgroups have held a combined total of 25 meetings
- The Senate has met as an entire body 7 times
- The Faculty Senate Executive Board has convened for 42 meetings
- The Senate has engaged 355 faculty, staff, academic administrators, and students in serving on various bodies
- Presidential Scholars and Faculty Retirement Recognition events were produced
- Last Lecture Series and Fallen Bronco events were created
- President Kritzman and Vice president Summy have attended a combined total of 418 meetings

President Kritzman acknowledged the significant collective contributions and accomplishments of the Faculty Senate despite the global pandemic and uncertainty faced this past year. All of these activities have been accomplished with increased teaching loads, reduced resources, and virtually. As a partner in shared governance and a recommendation body, the Faculty Senate strives to do its best work for the University, the students, and faculty.

WMU President Edward Montgomery stated that WMU has turned the final page in the 2020-21 academic calendar after having recently celebrating spring commencement. It was wonderful to see the students and their families out and about on the campus, taking photos and connecting with their colleges for final farewells. Watching the graduates at the various college events, posing for photos with big smiles all around, was a great visual reminder about the important role that faculty members play in the student experience. In addition, four of WMU's newest bachelor's degree recipients shared their stories at the recent Board of Trustees meeting. Each one was very inspiring and is worth sharing as an example of how Western helps its students discover their purpose, build their resilience, and develop a vision for the future. The student presentations begin roughly one hour into the meeting which can be view at this link: <https://wmich.mediasite.com/Mediasite/Catalog/catalogs/BoardOfTrustees>

Appreciation was expressed to President Kritzman and the Faculty Senate Executive Board for efforts in providing materials and information to the University's Board of Trustees regarding the history of shared governance and the Faculty Senate's role in that shared governance at WMU. The trustees had an excellent, and well-informed conversation thanks to the background provided about this important partnership.

Additionally, appreciation was expressed to those who provided input during the recent Higher Learning Commission accreditation visit. The Faculty Senate's committees played an important role in ensuring that WMU maintains a high and consistent standard, especially the individuals who took part in the work to reevaluate the general education curriculum and help launch WMU Essential Studies, as well as the individuals who review and assess revisions across the curriculum.

President Montgomery announced and welcomed the new dean of WMed Dr. Paula Termhulen. He was honored to lead the search committee for this position and following an extensive national search he is confident that Dr. Termhulen will be an exceptional leader and outstanding partner. She comes to WMed from the University of Minnesota Medical School, where she was the regional dean of the Duluth campus and a professor of surgery.

Congratulations were extended to Dr. Michael Famiano, professor of physics, who has been named a Fulbright Scholar Alumni Ambassador for 2019. He will represent the Fulbright program for a two-year term in Japan, sharing information about his experience and what it means to be a Fulbright Scholar on college campuses and at academic conferences. Also, a paper co-authored by two individuals from WMU's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences was one of the top 10 most read papers in April 2021 in the ACS Sensors journal. Congratulations to Dr. Massod Atashbar, professor in the department of electrical and computer engineering and Ph.D. candidate Simin Masihi. Congratulations to Dr. Charlie Kurth, for his recent paper in the journal *Emotion Review* and in a popular press piece in *Scientific American*. Both pieces focus on the moral value of the feeling of disgust when it is a beneficial emotion and when it is problematic.

There is anticipation of the faculty-led interdisciplinarity initiative. There were 69 proposals in the first cycle of submissions that focused on a number of creative collaborations. One project was a great example of interdisciplinary collaboration, but it also strikes a strong chord with Rethink Smart. It proposes establishing mutual tracks within food and consumer packaged goods marketing, integrated supply management, nutrition/dietetics, and product and packaging design programs. This collaboration will offer a more deeply interdisciplinary approach to ensuring students build skills sets that will prepare them to enter careers in a range of technical arenas. A separate proposal calls for establishing an institute for climate change solutions at Western that would build on the faculty-led Climate Change Working Group. It would bring together work in the research, education, and outreach arenas for more coordinated responses and forward-looking work across disciplines and colleges. These are just two

examples of the projects that were brought forward and that highlight the potential that interdisciplinarity offers for serving WMU's students and society.

The purpose of COVID-19 vaccines are to protect the community. WMU is working with county and state officials to set and revise protocols for campus. The previously implemented requirements for masks, testing, badging, and safety protocols have paid off. WMU had the lowest increase in COVID-19 spring cases in relation to fall cases compared to other Michigan universities. There is an increase of vaccine availability and WMU continues to strongly encourage people to get the vaccine, while making the shot available to the entire WMU community. The statewide vaccination rate is 55%. With voluntary vaccination programs cases having gone down. Mandating vaccines is not being considered, especially now that there is legislation which could potentially restricts state appropriation funding for schools that implement requirements for vaccines. Details were provided regarding limited classroom exposure and cases confirmed.

Questions included:

- A suggestion to create a hybrid alternative to mandate vaccines for students, faculty and staff would be to have anyone accessing campus provide proof of vaccination or submit to weekly testing. President Montgomery acknowledged that there are a variety of incentive alternatives.
- A concern was noted that if a person were not vaccinated, they could be infected and spreading COVID, therefore WMU should require vaccinations. President Montgomery stated that WMU is attempting to reduce risk but there is not a system that could eliminate all risk. It must be noted that some people cannot be vaccinated due to medical or religious reasons, so there will never be 100% vaccination coverage.
- When asked about enrollment President Montgomery indicated that applications were up but potential new admits is a soft number, a lot of students are waiting to commit based on the what kind of experience they are expecting on campus in the fall.
- It was acknowledged that faculty are able to request to teach remotely if they have reservations about returning to campus in person in the fall. Encouragement was offered for the concept of creating incentives.
- It was questioned what the mask mandate will be for fall. President Montgomery indicated that WMU will follow the CDC recommendations which is continuing to suggest that people wear masks for indoor environments, but outdoor environments are being evaluated for changes. There is no plan to change the WMU indoor environment mandate for masks.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jennifer Bott provided faculty accolades. She thanked the HLC visit leaders, criterion chairs, WMU Essential Studies program leaders, and all those that attended meetings during the HLC visit. WMU showcased the work of the campus over the last 10 years.

Planning is underway to launch the next University strategic planning process in the fall. Over the summer data will be organized for a new style of plan which will be a focused plan that includes progressive actions rolling out over the ten-year process.

The fall Contingency Planning group has been reconvened, but the work is different because the University is in a different time of the pandemic.

Questions included:

- It was questioned how interdisciplinarity is going to continue. Bott stated that the proposals were group into three categories, the first level review feedback has been provided to the those that submitted the proposals. In the fall the proposals will move onto round two review.

Vice President for Legislative Affairs Jeffrey Breneman provided a State legislative update. Topic included the history of State Appropriations base funding; Fiscal Year 2022 higher education funding proposal; Governor Gretchen Whitmer, the Senate, and the House funding proposals; maintenance of effort; what's next; and COVID-19 vaccine politics.

<https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2021/20210513-Legislative.pdf>

Questions included:

- It was asked if there are speculations about the next stimulus package that is said to provide for two years of community college attendance. Breneman is questioned the legislature why the funding is being limited to community colleges and why not 4-year universities since the funding could be applied to the first two years of a four year institution.

Professional and Academic Concerns

Prior to the meeting, professional concerns were received as follows:

- Recently changed graduation audit deadlines (Spring-Oct. 1, Summer I-Feb. 1, Summer II-Feb. 1, and Fall-Feb. 1) is causing stress and difficulty for graduate student community. These deadlines are not practicable, as many departments do not publish their course offerings by the Feb. 1 deadline. This results in requiring changes to graduate student permanent program of study at least once or twice before final graduation. This is only increasing the work to students as well as graduate advisors. Further, increased number of graduation audit cancellations after the new deadlines are implemented and in extreme cases student are not able to graduate in that semester. Recently, the University added a \$200 late fee which is causing hardship to students. Register Carrie Cumming replied that the graduation application deadlines changed in May 2019, and was done so with student success in mind, it is to ensure audits were received in time to make changes to student's fall schedule if necessary. Advisors can adjust the graduate program of study. There is an option to apply late but there is a late fee that would be assessed. The deadlines are a business practice of the Registrar office and outside the scope of the Graduate Studies Council and the Faculty Senate, but Cumming had addressed this question to the GSC previously.
- It was requested that WMU mandate COVID-19 vaccinations for all faculty, staff, and students. Since this topic was addressed previously in the meeting no further comments were made.

New Business

Interim Curriculum Manager Nicolas Witschi presented details of the Curriculog Implementation. Topics included the current curriculum change processes; introduction of Curriculog; integration of curriculum processing and catalog production; demonstration of Curriculog processing screens; creations of curriculum committee agendas based on proposal submitted; possible use of Curriculog to manage approval of other administrative documents; the tracking and archival system included; customization; timeline for implementation; and training and support that is being planned.

<https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2021/20210513-Curriculog.pdf>

Reports of University Committees

Faculty Senate President Kritzman postponed the presentation on the WeTalk.

Adjournment

It was moved by Hearit, seconded by Karpov, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. The motion carried.

Approval

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

Minutes approved this _____ day of ____ 2021.