

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

Minutes of 7 October 2021

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate was called to order at 5:02 p.m. on 13 May 2021, in room 208/209 of the Bernhard Center and via Webex video conferencing by Marilyn Kritzman, president. The recording secretary was present.

**Roll Call:** There were 67 members and substitutes present, and 28 guests.

**Members Present In-Person:** Diane Anderson, Jennifer Bott, Decker Hains, Vyacheslav Karpov, Jean Kimmel, Peter Krawutschke, Marilyn Kritzman, Tetyana Koshmanova, Matthew Mingus, Dave Nofsinger, Troy Place, C. Dennis Simpson, Scott Slawinski, Sarah Summy, Andre Venter

**Members Present Virtually:** Osama Abudayyeh, Eric Archer, Pnina Ari-Gur, Onur Arugaslan, JoAnn Atkin, Upul Attanayake, Amy Bocko, Sunday Bonifas, Stephanie Burns, Zbigniew Chajcki, Stephen Covell, Anthony DeFulio, Suma Devanga, Clifton Ealy Jr, Cristina Fava, Dyanne Foskey, Susan Freeman, Maria Gigante, Sandra Glista, Janet Hahn, Chansheng He, Keith Hearit, Don Hoover, Mark Hurwitz, Pavel Ikononov, Antonio Isea, Beth Jarl, John Jellies, Dean Johnson, Phil Johnson, Dae Kim, Doug Lepisto, Geoffrey Lindenberg, Debra Linstrom, Nathan Lisak, Candy McCorkle, Reza Mousavi, Joshua Naranjo, Amy Naugle, Kelley Pattison, David Paul, John Petrovic, Lori Reichel, Carter Rice (substitute for Trey Harris), David Rudge, Linda Schmidt, Larry Simon, Maianne Swierenga, David Szabla, Janet Van Der Kley, Shu Yang, Andrew Zolp

**Members Absent:** Joseph Buckley, Elise de Doncker, Gene Freudenburg, Lynne Heasley, Kyle Jehnzen, Thayma Lutz, Paviz Merati, Edward Montgomery, Kelsey Paschich, Alendandra Pekarovico, Joshua Santos, Tim Sheu, Mohamad Sultan, Vince Torano

**Guests Present In-Person:** Barry Olson, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs; Staci Perryman-Clark, Chair of Institute for Intercultural and Anthropological Studies; Susan Pozo, Economics; Reetha Raveendran, Associate Vice President Dean of Students; Michael Ryan, Economics

**Guests Present Virtually:** Cathryn Bailey, Gender and Women's Studies; Jason Beasley; Michele Behr, University Libraries; James Butterfield, Political Science; Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Dean, Graduate College; Christopher Cheatham, Vice Provost for Budget and Personnel; Ron Cisler, Dean, Health and Human Services; D'Jaris Coles-White, Speech, Language, Hearing Science; Virginia David, Special Education and Literacy Studies; Paula Davis, Director of Strategic Communications; Derek Diget, Office of Information Technology; Julie Garrison, Dean, Libraries; Evan Heiser, Career and Student Employment Services; Brian Jansen, Aviation; Stephen Kaczmarek, Geological and Environmental Sciences; Haylee Knowles, Provost Office; Carla Koretsky, Dean, Arts and Sciences; Mary Lagerwey, Emeriti; Ming Li, Dean, Education and Human Development; Kelly McDonnell, Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology; Debasri Mukherjee, Economics; Laura Probyn, Executive Communications Specialist; Cody Williams, Mallinson Institute for Science Education; Nicolas Witschi, Interim Curriculum Manager; Paulo Zagalo-Melo, Associate Provost for Haenicke Institute for Global Education

**Faculty Senate Staff Present:** Sue Brodasky

**Quorum**

A quorum was present with 67 Senators in attendance of the 42 needed to establish quorum.

**Agenda**

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

## Minutes

It was moved by Karpov, seconded by Kimmel, to approve the 13 May 2021 minutes as presented. The motion carried.

## Reports of Officers

Faculty Senate President Kritzman reported that since the Faculty Senate last met, we have learned of the passing of Dennis Shouse from the College of Health and Human Services.

The Faculty Senate offered a special memorial recognition for Mark Wheeler, Professor of Economics who passed away suddenly in May 2021. Professor of Economics Michael Ryan made comments on behalf of the department. Dr. Wheeler's widow Denise Hartsough and daughter Laura Wheeler accepted a Faculty Senate resolution in remembrance of Wheeler's service to the Senate and WMU.

*In Remembrance of Mark V. Wheeler, Professor of Economics, 1983-2021. In Recognition of his Dedication and Service to the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate.*

*WHEREAS, Mark Wheeler over a 31-year career at Western Michigan University, dedicated himself to the furtherance of Higher Education in the Academy of Scholars through his deep and abiding commitment to the department of Economics as well as to the overall University; and*

*WHEREAS, Mark Wheeler assumed a variety of roles in the department of Economics, which included, but were not limited to director of graduate studies, member and chair of multiple dissertation committees, and instructor of undergraduate and graduate students; and*

*WHEREAS, Mark Wheeler assumed a variety of roles in service of the Faculty Senate, which included as a member and chair of the Graduate Studies Council and as a member and chair of the Committee on General Education; and*

*WHEREAS, Mark Wheeler initiated and led the Graduate Student Awards competition; and*

*WHEREAS, Mark Wheeler has contributed to and furthered the study of economics as author of numerous publications in respected journals, presenter at prominent conferences, recipient of several research grants, and referee of over a dozen significant journals in the field.*

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Executive Board of the Faculty Senate of Western Michigan University, on this 7th day of October 2021, does recognize, congratulate, and commend Mark Wheeler for his dedication and contributions toward the enhancement and betterment of Western Michigan University. His loss will be felt by all he has touched.*

President Kritzman reported that the following Memoranda of Action have been approved by the administration:

- MOA-21/02: Creation of Transfer Minor Policy
- MOA-21/03: Revision of Dean's List Honors

The Faculty Senate will conduct its bi-annual appraisal of WMU President Edward Montgomery beginning in mid-October. Those holding academic rank, both tenured and tenure-track, will receive a link to the appraisal instrument. Results will be compiled, shared with President Montgomery individually, and summary results will be shared at an upcoming Senate meeting. The inaugural Fallen Broncos ceremony honoring students, faculty, and staff who passed away while active members of the University community, will be held October 8 at 3 p.m. in the President's Dinning room in the Bernhard Center. The Western Student Association, one of our partners in shared governance, will be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary tomorrow. The Faculty Senate congratulates the undergraduate students for sustained governance for the student body at Western Michigan University. The WMU Essential Studies launch celebration and first year anniversary will be held on Thursday, October 14 at 4:30 p.m. at the Sangren Hall plaza.

Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board of Trustees Kahler Schuemann, on behalf of WMU President Edward Montgomery, stated that the in-person commencement event for 2020-21 graduates celebrated last weekend welcomed more than 1,500 graduates and thousands of their guests to Waldo Stadium to walk across the stage and hear their names called. Appreciation was expressed to everyone that took part in the ceremony. Announcements about plans for a fall commencement will be coming soon. WMU continues to monitor COVID-19 trends and consults with public health experts regularly. An email update from the president was distributed recently containing the University's multilayered COVID-19 mitigation strategy. The approach, which is grounded in guidelines from local and federal public health leaders, is yielding positive results. As the message noted, the vaccination rates that are above state and local rates and are on par with that some of the in-state universities that have issued vaccine mandates. WMU continues to encourage vaccination and is very proud of the institution's data integrity related to vaccination rates. Congratulation to everyone who was part of the Higher Learning Commission reaccreditation process. WMU was notified last month the reaccreditation process is completed for this cycle, that doesn't mean that the University can rest on its laurels. Strategic planning is never a one-and-done process; to remain effective, and to retain the quality of programs, it's important that there is continued assessment and determining a sound course for the future. In this vein Provost Bott is launching a new strategic planning process. The process has been announced and participation and input are being requested. Faculty are encouraged to take part in this key activity. Visit the website for more information ([www.wmich.edu/strategic](http://www.wmich.edu/strategic)). Appreciation was expressed to everyone who took part in the Racial Justice Advisory Committee town hall event. The event gave several of the RJAC committees the chance to share its work with the larger University community and for the community to provide input and suggestions for moving forward. It's one of a number of groups that are doing vital work to ensure WMU continues making progress to break down barriers, dismantle systemic racism and make the entire campus open and welcoming to all.

Through this semester the provost will be presenting the Academic Excellence Awards to some very deserving winners. The Emerging Scholar Award winners who were celebrated on 30 September were Megan Grunert Kowalske, chair of the Department of Chemistry; Kristina Lemmer, associate professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering; and Adam Mathews, associate professor of geography. The Distinguished Service Awards were presented to Ann Miles, professor of sociology, and Ying Zeng, director of Asian Initiatives, the Soga Japan Center and the Timothy Light Center for Chinese Studies. Later this month the Distinguished Teaching Award will be presented to James Eckert, associate professor of marketing and Brian Gogan, associate professor of English and director of first-year writing. Next month the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award will be presented to Cat Crotchett, professor and area coordinator of painting.

Western's first Fallen Broncos ceremony will take place tomorrow at 3 p.m. in the President's Dining Room of the Bernhard Center. Faculty are encouraged to join that event for a time of remembrance and to pay respects to those enrolled students, and employed faculty and staff members who were lost over the course of the past year. Also, tomorrow will be the naming of the new Merze Tate College. The Board of Trustees approved a recommendation last month to designate University College the Merze Tate College and in recognition of that momentous event, Dr. Tate's family, elected officials and members of the community will join the celebration. That event will take place at 4 p.m. in the Bernhard Center Ballroom, and will also be livestreamed.

Gratitude was expressed to the Faculty Senate as a highly appreciated partner in Western's shared governance. There's a great degree of respect for the Senators and appreciation for the work they do regarding curriculum the curriculum review and, specifically, the recent monumental task of envisioning and developing WMU Essential Studies. There is high regard for the work of the Senators and their contributions as participants in the many councils and committees. These efforts inform decision making for those teaching at WMU.

With the departure of Terri Goss Kinzy, Steven Carr has taken on the role of interim vice president of research and innovation. Carr previously served as chair of the Department of Computer Science and interim chair of the Department of Engineering Design, Manufacturing and Management. He joined Western in 2012 as professor and chair of computer science. He was previously a faculty member and

chair of computer science at Michigan Technological University. Carr has three degrees in computer science, a bachelor's degree from Michigan Tech and master's and doctoral degrees from Rice University. WMU is launching a national search to identify a permanent leader for this important role. President Kritzman was thanked for agreeing to serve on the search committee.

Vice President for Student Affairs Diane Anderson introduced the two new associate vice presidents in Student Affairs. Reetha Raveensdran is the new associate vice president for dean of students. Raveensdran has served in a number of student affairs positions at both large public and small private institutions. Most recently she served as the Director of Student Affairs in the Taubman College of Architecture at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She has held numerous key roles in student affairs and has advised senior leadership on all aspects of the student experience. She is well respected as a collaborative leader with a strong background in diversity and inclusion. Raveensdran has played a key role in the development and implementation of programming that enhances the quality of student learning, wellness, and engagement. At Western, Raveensdran will be primarily responsible for bringing this expertise to bear as she oversees Student Engagement, Student Conduct, the Student Recreation Center, Sindecuse Health Center, and the Case Manager position. Anderson also introduced Barry Olson. Olson is the new Associate Vice President for Campus Life. Olson is joining WMU from North Carolina State University, where he most recently served as the associate vice chancellor of academic and student affairs. He is known for his work in housing and residence life, Greek Life, student leadership and engagement and business administration. Olson's emphasis on being student-focused includes facilitating campus-wide programming on race, privilege and engaging in difficult dialogues. At WMU, Olson's portfolio includes housing, dining and the student center. He will help keep the student experience front and center. Anderson noted that student affairs is committed to helping move the institution forward in its quest to be the campus of choice for students and employees. Anderson thanked Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion Candy McCorkle and Faculty Senate President Marilyn Kritzman for leading the search committees for the two new associate vice presidents.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jennifer Bott gave an overview of the newly launched strategic planning website (<https://wmich.edu/strategic>). The website provides details on the process, timeline, and opportunities to get involved. She highlighted the steering committee and the seven working groups structure, which include Diversity, Equity, Inclusion; Wellbeing; Academic Excellence; Sustainability; Community Building; Research and Discovery; and Internationalization.

Provost Bott acknowledged the 2021 Academic Excellence Award Series (<https://wmich.edu/news/2021/09/65618>) which is occurring throughout the fall semester.

The dedication of the Merze Tate College, the eighth WMU college is scheduled for Oct. 8 at 4 p.m. in the ballroom of the Bernhard Center. (<https://wmich.edu/merzetate>)

### **Reports of Faculty Senate Councils and Committees**

Research Policies Council chair Onur Arugaslan introduced Memorandum of Action-19/14: Fixed Price Agreement Policy. It was moved by Venter, seconded by Simpson, to approve MOA-19/14. The motion carried.

Undergraduate Studies Council chair Clifton Ealy, Jr. introduced Memorandum of Action-21/05: Revision of MOA-16/13 for Undergraduate Certificate Programs. It was moved by Flanagan, seconded by Kimmel, to approve MOA-21/05. The motion carried.

### **Reports of University Committees**

None.

### **New Business**

Vice President for Legislative Affairs Jeffrey Breneman provided a legislative update. Topic included state budget overview, Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System (MPERS) liability relief, Michigan's support of higher education, and a history of state appropriations.

<https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2021/20211007-legislative-update.pdf>

Questions included:

- Since Michigan ranks 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation for higher education funding, if adjusted for per capita, how does WMU rank. Breneman will need to research and provide an answer at a future date.
- With the state appropriations matching the funding provided to WMU as in 1999, if adjusted for the number of students in 1999, how does it compare to the current student count. Breneman noted that WMU had more students in 1999, but considering the considerable rising costs of higher education there is less funding per student.
- It was questioned if state appropriation is adjusted for inflation. Breneman stated it is not.

### **Professional and Academic Concerns**

Professional concerns were expressed as follows:

- A concern was shared regarding the Faculty Senate process of curricular changes. It was noted that currently many proposals are completed once the college dean has approved the proposal, however, the procedures allow the Provost, Undergraduate Studies Council, or Graduate Studies Council the authority to review any proposal, but it is not defined how or when that would happen. Changes are being completed without stakeholders outside of the proposing college being notified or provided an opportunity to comment. It was stated that there are extreme changes being made that effect students and units outside of the proposing college. It was asked that the Faculty Senate review the issue of notification to other units that may be affected by the proposed changes and to make the processes more collaborative between colleges. Interim Curriculum Manager Nicolas Witschi acknowledged that the Faculty Senate has the authority to review any proposal it so chooses and the processes to request such a review are not defined in the procedures, however, the proposal form includes questions regarding what other units will be affected, and the proposals are distributed to all colleges via the college curriculum committee agendas. Ultimately it is the responsibility of the deans to collaborate across colleges. President Kritzman confirmed that Provost Bott has agreed to ensure that the deans understand and follow the curriculum processes. She noted that communication is key and that all colleges have to be notified of proposals.
- Concern was expressed regarding the volume of information that is required to be included in course syllabi. Students find it cumbersome and it is an infringement on faculty. The requirement for inclusion of the process of assessment, while fundamentally a good idea, it assumes all instructors of a specific course have the same objectives that have the same measures, which again is an infringement on faculty. It was suggested that students be expected to be familiar with basic important policy rather than including those policies in the syllabus, and that the Faculty Senate be proactive regarding the need for assessment in relation to the needs of instructors. President Kritzman noted that for units that are subject to external accreditation agencies assessment is defined by those bodies. Additionally, if the course is included as a WMU Essential Studies course, assessment is a required part of WMU Essential Studies. In order to remove the assessment of a WMU Essential Studies course it would be necessary to remove the course from the WMU Essential Studies program. President Kritzman also noted that the course syllabus establishes an agreement/contract with the student and as such specific policy, assignments, and grading information is necessary, however, she agrees that syllabi can be very long. The Faculty Senate is working on guidance and possible suggestions to make syllabus more manageable. The Faculty Senate, shares in the protection of academic freedom for WMU faculty.

### **Adjournment**

It was moved by Hains, seconded by Flanagan, to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 p.m. The motion carried.  
The next meeting will be 4 November 2021 in room 208/209 of the Bernhard Center and virtually via Webex.

### **Approval**

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

Minutes approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_ 2021.