FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Minutes of 3 November 2022

Call to Order
The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate was called to order at 5 p.m. on 3 November 2022, in rooms 208/209 of the Bernhard Center by Sarah Summy, president, and streamed live on Mediasite.

Roll Call: There were 55 members and substitutes present, and three guests.

Members Present: Osama Abudayyeh, Pnina Ari-Gur, Onur Arugaslan (substitute for Tim Scheu), Stephanie Burns, Christopher Cheatham, Jou-Chen Chen, William Davis, Whitney DeCamp, Lisa DeChano-Cook, Anthony DeFulio, Mioara Diaconu, Kieran Fogarty, Janet Hahn, Decker Hains, Patrick Hanlin, Keith Hearit, Pavel Ikonomov, John Jellies, Dean Johnson, Stephen Kaczmarek, Dae Kim, Jean Kimmel, Mary Lagerwey, Mahendra Lawoti, Doug Lepisto, Geoffrey Lindenberg, Nathan Lisak, Michael Millar (substitute for Antonio Isea), Edward Montgomery, Nicholas Padilla (substitute for Chansheng He), David Paul, John Petrovic, Troy Place, William Rantz, David Richter (substitute for Thayma Lutz), Diane Riggs (substitute for Stephen Covell), David Rudge, Remzi Seker, Larry Simon, C. Dennis Simpson, Scott, Slawinski, Sarah Summy, Marianne Swierenga, David Szabla, Laura Teichert, Brian Tripp, Jan Van Der Kley, Ann Veck (substitute for JoAnn Atkin), Andre Venter, Zeljka Vidic, Bret Wagner, Shu Yang, Ting You Mu (substitute for Utkarsh Shrivastave), Andrew Zolp
Members Absent: Dawn Anderson, Diane Anderson, Upul Attanayake, Amy Bocko, Sunday Bonifas, Zbigniew Chajecki, Suma Devanga, Steven Eberth, Sandra Glista, Monique Haley, Keith Hall, Trey Harris, Lynn Heasley, Jill Hermann-Wilmarth, Don Hoover, Michelle Hrivnyak, David Huffman, Kyle Jehnzen, Vyacheslav Karpov, Colin MacCreery, Parviz Merati, Matthew Mingus, Joshua Naranjo, Amy Naugle, Kelsey Paschich, Kelly Pattison, Alexandra Pekarovicova, Joshua Santos, Paul Solomon, Carol Weideman
Guests Present: Paula Davis, Director, Marketing and Strategic Communication; Candy McCorkle, Vice President, Office of Diversity and Inclusion; Ray Thompson, Dean, College of Aviation
Faculty Senate Staff Present: Sue Brodasky

Quorum
A quorum was present with 55 Senators in attendance, of the 46 needed to establish quorum.

Agenda
It was moved by Rudge, seconded by Hains, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Minutes
It was moved by Rudge, seconded by Tripp, to approve the 6 October 2022 minutes as presented. The motion carried.

Report of Officer
Faculty Senate President Sarah Summy
President Summy reported on the passing of:
- Alen Kehew, Professor Emeritus of Geological and Environmental Services
- Mark Matteson, Master Faculty Specialist, College of Aviation
- John Tanis, Professor Emeritus of Physics

31 October is the last day for curriculum proposals to have made their way through the department and college curriculum committees and be signed by the college dean in order to be eligible the fall 2023 undergraduate and graduate academic catalogs. This year there has been a record number of proposals. Last year there were approximately 500 curriculum proposals for the entire year, this year that number has already been exceeded. While many proposals are finalized within the College, all others move forward to Undergraduate Studies Councils, Graduate Studies Council, WMU Essential Studies Course

Review and Approval Committee, or the Faculty Senate Executive Board for reorganization proposal. Due to this heavy volume and the transition to Curriculog, the Executive Board was asked, and agreed, to allow for a one-time only extension to 14 November at 5 p.m. for deans to complete the proposals that were received by the 31 October deadline. These proposals will keep the aforementioned councils and committee very busy for the rest of the academic year and will continue to improve the curriculum offerings for the betterment of WMU students.

The Office of Service-Learning is available to faculty as they prepare for spring courses or start planning for fall 2023 courses. The office connects faculty to course-specific community projects through which learning objectives are met by addressing community-identified needs. Services available to faculty include:
- Development of community projects to achieve course learning objectives
- Securing community partners
- Coordination of existing partnerships
- Placement of students with community partners
- Assistance with developing introductory learning before students go into the community, as well as reflection activities throughout the semester

If you are interested in adding, or already include, a community engaged learning or service-learning component in your course, please e-mail Shawn Tenney, Director Service-Learning at shawn.l.tenney@wmich.edu for additional information.

Reports of Ex Officios
University President Edward Montgomery
- President Montgomery indicated that he was impressed with the number of curriculum proposals initiated.
- Appreciation was expressed to all who took part in the Employee Engagement Workshops. Colleagues from all parts of campus came together to collaborate on developing solutions designed to better the workplace. The ideas generated will be broadly shared. Those that get prioritized based on community input will ultimately be moved forward to create an action plan that will support the efforts to boost employee morale and address other needs identified in the employee engagement survey. Change won't happen immediately, but WMU should see forward movement toward achieving its goals. The impact of the interventions and ideas will be measured. If you were unable to attend any of the three workshops, it's not too late to contribute. There is a section on the website, where you will find survey results, the action team's analyses, and a form to submit thoughts, ideas, and suggestions.
https://wmich.edu/president/employeesurvey
- Last week, the Provost Search Advisory Committee presented a slate of exceptional chief academic officer candidates to the campus community. President Montgomery expressed gratitude to the committee, which was ably led by Sarah Summy and Brian Gogan, who took on the enormous task on top of their other responsibilities and did an outstanding job. At the candidate presentations last week, there were solid in-person participation and even higher viewership online. Thank you for taking an active role in the search process, from helping last spring to define the qualities you wanted to see in the next provost to providing your feedback in response to the recent candidate presentations. President Montgomery is now in the evaluation process and he will be sharing next steps in the near future. https://wmich.edu/provostsearch
- Paul Pancella, professor of physics, received the City Captain 2022 Drive Electric Award from Plug In America. The national award honor individuals and organizations that have demonstrated inspiring leadership in the electric vehicle movement. Pancella has a long history with electric vehicles, starting with the Honda Civic that he converted to electric himself. He leads the Kalamazoo Electric Vehicle Association and has led ten National Drive Electric Week and Drive Electric Earth Day events. He has been a tireless leader and a vocal cheerleader of the electric vehicle movement and is known locally as the "go to" person in Kalamazoo for advice on everything from charging to purchasing an electric vehicle.

- President Montgomery was invited to initiate the Climate Change Workgroup kick-off the meeting. He welcomes invitations to staff meetings and other gatherings, in addition to his open office hours, if you prefer one-on-one discussion. https://wmich.edu/president/invite

Questions included:
- It was questioned what actions are being taken to beautify the Stadium Blvd intersection. President Montgomery stated that Vice President Van Der Kley continues to coordinate with Amtrak on improvements.

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Christopher Cheatham
Enrollment Updates:
- It is very early in spring 2023 registration process. Priority registration opened on 24 October and runs through 8 November. Sophomores with less than 45 credits and freshmen have yet to be able to register. Because of this, there is a lot of day-to-day fluctuations in the data.
- As of today, student headcount is down 8.1% and credit hours are down 5.6% compared to this time last year.
- The budget was built on a 5.9% decrease in spring 2023 credit hours compared to spring 2022. There is reason for optimism as the incoming freshman class (which has yet to be able to register) is about 500 students larger than the incoming freshman class last year.
- In regards to fall 2023 new beginner applications, are currently 8% higher than this time last year. The trajectory of increasing applications year-to-year continues.
- The Bronco Promise Scholarship provides free tuition to incoming students that are from Michigan and have a family average gross income of less than $50 thousand and total assets less than $50 thousand. In fall 2022 399 new freshman students were able to benefit from this scholarship. Additionally, the yield rate for those who received this scholarship is about nine percentage points higher than the overall yield rate.
- The Michigan Association of State Universities (MASU) released the preliminary version of their enrollment report and WMU's market share of new freshmen increased one full percentage point compared to last year. And, WMU had the second largest percent increase in new freshmen students of all the public four-year institutions in Michigan.

The final draft of the new University Strategic Plan is complete. This document will be shared with the campus community and there will be opportunities to provide feedback about the plan. This is yet another step in the continued efforts to involve campus in the creation of this important plan. More details will be provided in the coming weeks. https://wmich.edu/strategic

Last week the College of Aviation Dean Search Committee interviewed 10 very qualified candidates. Three finalists, with backgrounds in academia, industry, and the military, will come to campus on the following dates: 8, 16, and 18 November. https://wmich.edu/provost/administrative-searches

Candace Johnson, a student in the department of Psychology, has been selected as the WMU nominee for the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) Distinguished Master's thesis award in the Social Sciences category. Candace is mentored by Professor Lisa Baker in Psychology.

Questions included:
- It was stated that there has been a lot of media reports regarding first-year students that which were taught through Zoom for the last two years of high school and are now struggling in math and science. Is WMU seeing that trend and will programs be created to assist those students? Interim Provost Cheatham stated that the Gateways to Completion initiative is continuing and the fall 2022 to spring 2023 retention rate will be closely monitored. Discussion was held.

University Reports
Chief Information Officer Andy Holmes gave a presentation on the Office of Information Technology. He provided details regarding the draft OIT Strategic Plan that is anticipated to be finalized by 1 January 2023.

Goal 1: Strengthen the Information Technology Foundation that Empowers Academics, Research, and Institutional Administration
- Objective 1.1: Provide Best Practice-based Enterprise Infrastructure Solutions for Data Networks
  - Holmes stated that WMU has an aging network but OIT has a plan to move it forward and has already updated the data gateway. Work has begun on replacing wired networks in specific buildings.
- Objective 1.2: Create a Proactive Cybersecurity Culture
  - Holmes indicated that faculty and staff training on cybersecurity has already been rolled out as part of Elearning and take a minimal amount of time to complete. OIT is researching possible restrictions of the 60,000 end point privileged access.
  - Holmes has created a Security Council that is tasked with reviewing the most common and recent cybersecurity threats, but additional individuals are needed to serve.
- Objective 1.3: Enhance Organizational Structures through IT Unification and Talent Investment
  - Holmes stated that OIT is centralizing IT efforts across colleges in order to share resources. One of the first steps being taken is to unify windows and mac processes.

Goal 2: Enable the Advancement of the WMU Mission Through the Delivery of Contemporary and Sustainable IT Services
- Objective 2.1: Build, Test, and Extend Contemporary and Extensible Learning Environments
  - Holmes said that OIT is working on virtualization and pushing apps out to devices. OIT is upgrading teaching spaces with plans for 34 classrooms to get Hyflex technology over the summer.
- Objective 2.4: Develop and Maintain a Robust, Unified Communications Platform
  - Holmes commented that there is too much sprawl in communications platforms and OIT plans to bring the WMU community together to inform how to build communications for the future.
  - Holmes indicated the creation of a systems status dashboard with communications about outages which will provide details of estimated repairs and timelines. GoWMU will have visual cues about system planned activities.
  - Holmes said that the OIT website will be getting overhaled.

Goal 3: Provide Outstanding Customer Service and Support to All Constituents
- Objective 3.1: Define and Communicate Supported Systems and Services (Digital Toolkits)
  - Holmes stated that digital tool kits will be developed indicating what products OIT supports, with determination of how to package those resources, and define staff members that will be point for each product.
- Objective 3.2: Support Digital Toolkits with Training and Support Resources
- Objective 3.3: Maximize the Availability of Support Teams to Stakeholders Allowing for Transformative Solutions

Questions included:
- It was questioned if any of the classrooms being upgraded for HyFlex will be rooms designed for graduate classes. Holmes explained that the spaces scheduled are traditional classrooms and that conference style rooms will be in the next level of scheduling for upgrades.
- It was noted that if for any reason a Bronco server fails to recognize a faculty's credentials the only solution is to call the Help-Desk to obtain an authorized override of the computer. However, staff with authorization are unavailable between 5 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. Monday. Therefore, it was questioned if it is possible to make someone available during the weekend hours. Additionally, could it be possible to have a designated Help-Desk number accessible through an internet phone/messaging service such as Viber or WhatsApp. Holmes stated that he will look into how the call was routed, and what solutions can be offered.
- Concern was expressed regarding the sunsetting of faculty homepages, and an extension was requested. Holmes stated that the underlying platform is very antiquated. University Libraries and WMUx are available to assist faculty transitioning to other sources. The deletion of faculty homepages was originally declared in 2017 for end of life. Additional faculty expressed concerns.

- The status of iClicker reliability was questioned. Holmes acknowledged that network issues impact iClicker legitimacy. He indicated that some faculty use Poll Everywhere.
- It was suggested that OIT take advantage of AppsAnywhere, to which Holmes stated that OIT developing utilization reports for the use of physical lab space to possibly decreased the future footprint. Discussion was held.
- It was questioned if faculty instructional servers are being eliminated. Holmes said that OIT is concerned about servers that are not maintained, and are planning conversations with faculty about needs and possible use of maintained servers.

Professional Concerns
- A question was raised about how HyFlex courses are listed, how they are structured, and how they address contractional concerns. Associate Provost Edward Martini explained the HyFlex courses are not a stand-alone option in banner, departments typically create two sections, one for the in-person part of the course and one for the online portion of the course, with both being assigned to the same instructor. Discussion was held.
- Concern was expressed regarding the plethora of student data surveys during the semester. Several of the surveys ask for the same information, request mid-term grades before mid-term, and require manual submissions. It was suggested that all the surveys be uniformly organized to harvest the data electronically and to go out after mid-term. Vice President McCorkle responded that the surveys are being generated by various student success programs, with some being related to grant funding. Typically, the surveys fall under different Vice-Presidential areas, and are asking for student progress to determine when a student is not doing well so there can be timely intervention. She agreed that the surveys could be coordinated and streamlined. Discussion was held.

Adjournment
President Summy adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m. The next Faculty Senate meeting will be held on 1 December 2022 in rooms 208/209 of the Bernhard Center at 5 p.m. and streamed live via Mediasite.

Approval
Submitted by Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator.

Minutes approved on ___ 2022.