

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Minutes of 1 December 2022****Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate was called to order at 5 p.m. on 1 December 2022, in rooms 208/209 of the Bernhard Center by Sarah Summy, president, and streamed live on Mediasite.

Roll Call: There were 60 members and substitutes present, and three guests.

Members Present: Osama Abudayyeh, Dawn Anderson, Diane Anderson, Pnina Ari-Gur, Stephanie Burns, Zbigniew Chajecski, Christopher Cheatham, Jou-Chen Chen, Whitney DeCamp, Lisa DeChano-Cook, Anthony DeFulio, Mioara Diaconu, Mingming Feng (substitute for Sunday Bonifas), Kieran Fogarty, Janet Hahn, Decker Hains, Monique Haley, Patrick Hanlin, Trey Harris, Bidyut Hazarika (substitute for Utkarsh Shrivastava), Keith Hearit, Jill Hermann-Wilmarth, Pavel Ikonomov, Dean Johnson, Stephen Kaczmarek, Jean Kimmel, Mary Lagerwey, Mary Land (substitute for Keith Hall), Jen Lennon (substitute for Laura Teichert), Doug Lepisto, Nathan Lisak, Thayma Lutz, Joshua Naranjo, Nicholas Padilla (substitute for Chansheng He), Kelsey Paschich, David Paul, Troy Place, William Rantz, Diane Riggs (substitute for Stephen Covell), David Rudge, Kahler Schuemann (substitute for Edward Montgomery), Remzi Seker, Larry Simon, C. Dennis Simpson, Scott Slawinski, Sarah Summy, Marianne Swierenga, David Szabla, Brian Tripp, Jan Van Der Kley, Ann Veeck (substitute for JoAnn Atkin), Andre Venter, Zeljka Vidic (substitute for Lori Reichel), Udaya Wagle (substitute for Matthew Mingus), Carol Weideman, Rodney Weir (substitute for Don Hoover), Shu Yang, German Zarate (substitute for Antonio Isea), Andrew Zolp

Members Absent: Upul Attanayake, Amy Bocko, William Davis, Suma Devanga, Steven Eberth, Sandra Glista, Lynn Heasley, Michelle Hrivnyak, David Huffman, Kyle Jehnzen, John Jellies, Vyascheslav Karpov, Dae Kim, Mahendra Lawoti, Geoffrey Lindenberg, Colin MacCreery, Parviz Merati, Amy Naugle, Kelley Pattison, Alexandra Pekarovicova, John Petrovic, Joshua Santos, Tim Scheu, Paul Solomon, Bret Wagner

Guests Present: Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Dean, Graduate College; Kristal Ehrhardt, Interim Dean, College of Education and Human Development; Raymond Thompson, Dean, College of Aviation

Faculty Senate Staff Present: Sue Brodasky

Quorum

A quorum was present with 60 Senators in attendance, of the 46 needed to establish quorum.

Agenda

It was moved by Rudge, seconded by Ari-Gur, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Minutes

It was moved by Slawinski, seconded by Hearit, to approve the 3 November 2022 minutes as presented. The motion carried.

Report of Officer**Faculty Senate President Sarah Summy**

- Notification for the 2023 Faculty Senate general election, which begins in January for representatives-at-large and department senators, will be emailed to the faculty on Friday 2 December.
- Communication for departments to select their Presidential Scholar will be distributed soon and will be due mid-January. Please mark your calendars for the 17 March 2023 event, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Bernhard Center.
- Join the leadership and faculty of WMU Essential Studies for an engaging look at data collected during the 2021-22 academic year at the Data Spotlight event to be held on 9 December from

8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the College of Health and Services, room 4010. Registration is required at: <https://forms.gle/KkUzFnJ9wHLbQXmW9>

- The Graduate Studies Council and the Undergraduate Studies Council are both working to establish procedures for processing curriculum proposals via the new Curriculog software. This year has seen a record number of 700 curriculum proposals currently.
- The Undergraduate Studies Council is making suggestions to further the proposed syllabus template Memorandum of Action, and USC is revising charges for the Intellectual Skills Program Advisory Committee in order to address issues with the quantitative math literacy program.
- The WMU Office of Military and Veterans Affairs has launched the Military Ally Program to train faculty and staff to provide a safe space for military connected students struggling with adjusting to civilian life. This includes helping them connect with the appropriate resources on and off campus. For more information, please visit: www.wmich.edu/military/ally

Reports of Ex Officiis

Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board of Trustees Kahler Schuemann

- President Montgomery is in the Dominican Republic, engaging with two international higher education partner institutions to strengthen WMU's current collaborations and lay the groundwork for future alliances. While there, President Montgomery will also meet with the Ministry of Higher Education. WMU is an international university that sends and welcomes students and scholars from around the globe. Worldwide WMU's global engagement portfolio includes 142 partnerships and more than 30 articulation agreements, including dual degrees and full WMU degree programs delivered abroad. Associate Provost for the Haenicke Institute for Global Education Paulo Zagalo-Melo, is accompanying President Montgomery to the DR and helping lead those efforts.
- Julian Vasquez Heilig, will be joining campus as provost and vice president for academic affairs. Gratitude was expressed for the leadership efforts of President Summy and the other faculty and staff members that served on the Provost Search Advisory Committee.
- Appreciation and thanks were expressed to Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Christopher Cheatham for accepting the opportunity and challenge of leading as interim on top of his other important roles in academic affairs. He has done so with skill, dedication, and commitment to forward progress.
- On Saturday, 17 December, WMU will hold fall commencement and conferring degrees to more than 1,200 Broncos across three ceremonies. Of course, the focus will be on graduates that day but another very special element of commencement is the faculty members and others who have helped students reach this milestone. It is moving to observe educators gathered in the wings of the Miller Auditorium stage to congratulate and celebrate the students.
- Last week there was a different degree-granting ceremony. Board of Trustee Vice Chair Shelly Edgerton and Vice President for Development Kristen DeVries conferred an honorary degree on visual artist and philanthropist Audrey Morean Petersen in Naples, Florida. Ms. Morean Petersen, who is in her early 90s and could not make the trip here, follows a long line of exemplary individuals who have been recognized with an honorary degree from WMU. Ms. Morean Petersen was overjoyed to receive the Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, which is given to people with a record of outstanding service to humankind at large. It was a wonderful occasion for her, for her loved ones, and for this University. In January, there will be another formal push seeking honorary degree nominations. Faculty are encouraged to please nominate an individual in your field who you believe has made extraordinary contributions deserving of this high honor. The plan is to recognize an individual for achievements in an academic discipline. You can learn about the nomination process and degrees we offer by visiting the honorary degree link on the president's web page at: <https://wmich.edu/president/honorarydegree>
- Interim Curriculum Manager Nic Witschi and others were thanked for their vitally important work streamlining and bringing innovation to the process for submitting curriculum proposals. Typically, there are 500 proposals per academic year. This year there has been a 40% uptick, which brought submissions to more than 700 proposals. This is the first year the Curriculog platform is up and running for all curriculum proposals. Witschi had to customize all the different curriculum

templates for the new software. He and all those involved in supporting and achieving this effort are appreciated.

- An example of public good advanced through WMU's teaching and research mission is the impactful work of sociology professor Ashlyn Kuersten and her students in the Cold Case Program which have once again garnered broad recognition. Kuersten and her students helped solve the "unsolvable" murder of Roxanne Wood, a woman who was tragically killed in her home in 1987. WMU students played a key part in bringing closure to a devastated family and justice to the person identified as responsible for the homicide. Students in the Cold Case Program combed through material that helped build a case against the person who was ultimately convicted. The case, and WMU's involvement in it, was profiled a few weeks ago on the CBS program "48 Hours." Kuersten's latest cohort of students is working on new cases. Their contributions have proven to be vital.
- A Department of English doctoral graduate from 2014, Traci Brimhall, was recently named Poet Laureate for the state of Kansas. Brimhall, a proud alumna, earned her Ph.D. in Creative Writing. Today, she is a professor and the director of creative writing at Kansas State University. Her achievements are the result of her incredible talent, of course, but they also speak to the high quality of Western's creative writing program.
- Vice President for Research and Innovation, Remzi Seker, will speak more depth later about this upcoming opportunity. WMU has a long-held and strong commitment to broadening its research. Seker is going to provide insights about a proposed initiative designed to leverage the research strengths of MAC universities. Called the Mid-American Conference Innovation Collaboration Proposal, this would be a consortium of MAC member research institutions that would together explore cutting-edge approaches and innovations to solving challenges facing this region and local communities. WMU is interested in learning more about this proposal as it develops, but this is potentially one way to extend WMU's reach, multiply collaborations, and optimize effectiveness as a premier R2 institution. Through Seker's investigation of this opportunity, WMU will learn more, but this holds promise for unique approaches to advancing talent, assets, and applied research in a manner that could help elevate WMU's own research endeavors and, more broadly, economic opportunity for the Great Lakes region.

Questions included:

- It was questioned to what degree WMU works/prepares to prevent crimes like the recent shootings near campus. Schuemann stated that WMU has a critical incident response team that conducts regular practice sessions. He encouraged departments to invite WMU public safety to address incidents that may occur in classrooms.

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Christopher Cheatham

- Enrollment specifically spring 2023 and fall 2023 applications:
 - Spring 2023 headcount is down 6.2% compared to this time last year
 - Student credit hours are down 4.7% compared to this time last year
 - The budget was built on a 5.9% decrease in spring 2023 student credit hours compared to spring 2022 so at this time enrollment is outperforming the forecast
 - There is significant improvement in fall-to-spring retention and persistence rates compared to last year
 - FTIAC retention is 4.2 percentage points higher than this time last year (82.0 vs. 86.2)
 - Overall freshman, sophomore, and junior persistence rates are up 4.1, 2.1, and 1.4 percentage points, respectively
 - Fall 2023 new beginner applications are flat compared to last year while admitted students is up 4.1% compared to last year
 - Masters applications are up 26.6% and doctoral application are up 2.1% compared to this time last year
- After receiving final feedback from the working groups and the DEI Executive Committee, the core team made final revisions to the University Strategic Plan. The plan will be made public to campus no later than 15 December.

- Several weeks ago, three finalists were on campus for the dean of the College of Aviation position search. A special thanks to all the faculty, staff, students, and administrators who participated in the process with special thanks to Steve Butt for chairing the search and to Cathy Smith for providing all of the logistical support.
 - Ray Thompson, the current interim dean, has accepted the position. Pending Board of Trustees approval, Thompson's appointment as the dean will start on 1 January.
- Congratulations to Lisa DeChano-Cook, professor in Geography, Environment and Tourism, for her article on how climate change could affect the future of the FIFA World Cup. She is the only female and geographer to be selected to contribute to this topical article.
- Congratulations to Savannah Xaver, doctoral student in English, for her selection as WMU's representative for the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools Excellence in Teaching Award. Savannah was nominated by Todd Kutcha, professor and chair of the Department of English.
- On a personal note, this is the last Faculty Senate meeting that I will be addressing you in my capacity as interim provost. I just wanted to take a moment to thank everyone for the support that has been provided. I also want to especially thank President Montgomery for his confidence in giving me this responsibility and for always empowering me to make the decisions this position requires. It has truly been a pleasure serving you all in this role and I look forward to returning to my real job and providing support to incoming Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Vasquez Heilig as we continue to move this outstanding University and community forward.

Faculty Senate Council Reports

Chair of the Research Policies Council Andre Venter provided a report of the council which included the role of the council, membership, 2022-23 charges, Faculty Research and Creative Activity Support Fund (FRCASF) that includes Preparation and Publication of Papers and Exhibition (PPPE), SFSA, Faculty Research Travel Fund (FRTF), and FRACAA, award funding and trends.

<https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2022/20221201-RPC.pdf>

Questions included:

- Vice President Seker was asked to elaborate on faculty application eligibility, to which he replied that faculty used to have to wait three years between applying but now faculty can apply again to the very next round of awards following a prior grant completion.

University Reports

Vice President Kristen DeVries announced that the Faculty Senate is joining Development to allow faculty, staff, and other donors to make gifts directly in support of the Senate on Giving Day 2023. She gave the Annual Development Report which included the 2022 fiscal performance, campaign progress, giving breakdown, donor types, donor retention, and key performance indicators.

<https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2022/20221201-Advancement.pdf>

Questions included:

- Questions were raised regarding the lack of promotion for Giving Tuesday. Vice President DeVries explained that Giving Tuesday is national program that WMU chooses not to promote in favor of strongly promoting the specific WMU only event Giving Day that is conducted in April.

Vice President for Research and Innovation Remzi Seker provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding revisioning WMU's research through the Mid-American Conference Innovation Collaboration Proposal and included details of WMU's 10-year trend of expenditures, fiscal year 2022 expenditures data, the University mission and vision related to research, development of strategies for effective use of resources toward desired outcomes, and tangible next steps.

<https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2022/20221201-Research.pdf>

Professional Concerns

- Details were requested regarding the WMU Essential Studies Data Spotlight on 9 December. It was asked if data would be shared with faculty that could not attend. Questions were raised

regarding applications of Student Learning Outcomes and rubrics. President Summy noted WMU Essential Studies Faculty Director Jonathan Bush should be contacted to arrange for a presentation to departments regarding data and program feedback. Vice Provost Martini explained that data will be compiled and customized for the upcoming event, but if faculty are unable to attend that data can be requested through contacting Bush. Discussion was held.

- A request was made to return to a HyFlex model for the Faculty Senate meetings. President Summy stated that she will discuss the request with the Executive Board.

Adjournment

President Summy adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m. The next Faculty Senate meeting will be held on 2 February 2023 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 ____ 2023.

DRAFT