

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Minutes of 6 April 2023****Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate was called to order at 5:01 p.m. on 6 April 2023, in rooms 208/209 of the Bernhard Center by Sarah Summy, president, and streamed live on Mediasite.

Roll Call: There were 58 members and substitutes present, and 9 guests.

Members Present: Osama Abudayyeh, Diane Anderson, Prina Ari-Gur, Amy Bocko, Zbigniew Chajecski, Jou-Chen Chen, William Davis, Lisa DeChano-Cook, Anthony DeFulio, Mioara Diaconu, Kieran Fogarty, Janet Hahn, Decker Hains, Monique Haley, Keith Hall, Patrick Hanlin, Trey Harris, Keith Hearit, Jill Hermann-Wilmarth, Don Hoover, Pavel Ikononov, Antonio Isea, John Jellies, Dean Johnson, Stephen Kaczmarek, Dae Kim, Jean Kimmel, Mary Lagerwey, Doug Lepisto, Ramona Lewis (substitute for David Szabla), Geoffrey Lindenberg, Thayma Lutz, Edward Montgomery, Nicholas Padilla (substitute for Chansheng He), Kelsey Paschich, Kelley Pattison, David Paul, John Petrovic, Troy Place, William Rantz, Diane Riggs (substitute for Stephen Covell), Remzi Seker, Utkarsh Shrivastava, Larry Simon, C. Dennis Simpson, Scott Slawinski, Michelle Suarez, Sarah Summy, Marianne Swierenga, Laura Teichert, Brian Tripp, Jan Van Der Kley, Julian Vasquez Heilig, Ann Veek (substitute for JoAnn Atkin), Andre Venter, Zeljka Vidic, Bret Wagner, Shu Yang, Andrew Zolp

Members Absent: Dawn Anderson, Upul Attanayake, Sunday Bonifas, Stephanie Burns, Whitney DeCamp, Suma Devanga, Sandra Glista, Lynn Heasley, Michelle Hrivnyak, David Huffman, Kyle Jehnzen, Vyascheslav Karpov, Mahendra Lawoti, Nathan Lisak, Colin MacCreery, Parviz Merati, Matthew Mingus, Joshua Naranjo, Alexandra Pekarovicova, David Rudge, Joshua Santos, Tim Scheu, Paul Solomon, Carol Weideman

Faculty Senate Staff Present: Sue Brodasky

Quorum

A quorum was present with 58 Senators in attendance, of the 46 needed to establish quorum.

Agenda

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

Minutes

It was moved by Ari-Gur seconded by DeChano-Cook, to approve the 1 December 2022 minutes as modified. The motion carried.

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

WMU had its fifth most successful Giving Day in 2022 with a total of 3,436 Broncos from all 50 states around the world showing their love for WMU through collective giving. This Giving Day, April 12, 2023 will be the first time ever that faculty can give directly to the Faculty Senate. Please visit the link to give to shared governance. Additional announcements will be distributed with the link on Giving Day.

<https://secure.wmualumni.org/s/give?funds=efac>

The Ad Hoc Curriculum Review Workgroup will be hosting four feedback sessions regarding MOA-23/01: Recommended Revisions of General Principles of Curriculum Change.

In-person sessions will be in the Bernhard Center, room 210:

- Tuesday, April 18 from 8 to 9 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 19 from 1 to 2 p.m. both.

Webex sessions will be:

- Tuesday, April 18 from 1 to 2 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 19 from 8 to 9 a.m.

In addition to the feedback sessions there will be a feedback form on the Faculty Senate website:

<https://wmich.edu/facultysenate/moa-comments>

The Fallen Broncos ceremony to honor deceased Western community members is set for 11 a.m. Friday, April 14, in the lobby atrium at the Fetzer Center. Western will honor members of the University community who have passed away. The ceremony will recognize by name those Broncos whose family members have given us permission to do so. All WMU employees and students as well as family members of the deceased are invited to participate. Held once in the fall and once in the spring, the Fallen Broncos ceremony honors students, faculty, and staff who passed away while active members of the University community.

The Faculty Senate councils and committees are being asked to determine the 2023-24 academic year meeting modality, either in-person or virtual. Those discussions will take place at the April meetings and will include the responsibility of scheduling meeting locations by the council/committee membership.

Reports of Ex Officiis

University President Edward Montgomery

President Montgomery stated that it is a festive time of year filled with events, end-of-year celebrations and academic award ceremonies. The level of meaningful celebrations as WMU draws near to commencement has been overwhelming. The Presidential Scholar ceremony, which was near-capacity, three weeks ago with students, faculty, staff, and family members, was a heartfelt and a celebratory moment for everyone present. The 48 students recognized are on an excellent course to achieving their goals, and it's largely because of the faculty, who take pride in disciplines and share knowledge and passion with students. The Medallion Scholars ceremony recognized a total of 21 students from the Class of 2019. They received the Medallion Scholarship, Western's highest merit-based scholarship, as incoming freshmen. The unique and sincere stories students shared about their journey to Western, through Western, and now to graduation in a few weeks are incredible and truly cement the reasons why faculty come to work every day, challenge students to do their best work in the classroom and help them find their career and purpose in life. One special note, three of the Medallion Scholars are also Presidential Scholar recipients this year.

Spring Commencement is three weeks away. One of the joys of commencement is that special moment seeing faculty waiting in the wings to recognize and congratulate the graduates. Join in commemorating the 337th commencement ceremony on Saturday 29 April, for one or more of the four ceremonies at 9 a.m., 12 p.m., 3 p.m., and 6 p.m.

Western Week is next week, April 12 through 15, please take time to participate. This is a special time for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and others to come together to showcase Bronco spirit. The week launches with Giving Day on 12 April. Other planned events include a Bye-Bye Bernhard a farewell carnival on Thursday, Spring Bash on Friday, and a football spring showcase on Saturday. This observance is an expansion of last year's very successful Western Weekend and is an opportunity for campus offices and departments to display their pride to prospective students, and to thank our donors and other supporters. Come out and join the festivities.

The role faculty play at Western educating students is the centerpiece of its success. To mark this year of achievement, there will be an end-of-year employee appreciation celebration on Wednesday 19 April, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. It will take place in the festive atmosphere of the Read Fieldhouse basketball court. President Montgomery will offer remarks highlighting the meaningful effort invest each day in service to an excellent student experience. Please share the invitation with your colleagues.

A new dean for the College of Education and Human Development has been hired. President Montgomery extended appreciation to the search team, led by Dean Ron Cisler, for its diligence in reviewing candidates for such a critical position at the University. He also thanked Kristal Ehrhardt, who successfully served as interim dean and led well during transition.

Faculty Accolades:

- Continuing the Bronco legacy on an international platform is essential to the growth of the University's global footprint. Special acknowledgement was given to the faculty who were honored as 2022-23 Fulbright Scholars: Eric Archer, Sandra Borden, Chansheng He, and Shannon McMorrow. Cassie Lopez-Jeng recently was awarded as a Fulbright Scholar for 2023-24. In addition, Chansheng He and Bernard Han both earned a highly competitive Fulbright Specialist Award from the U.S. Department of State.
- Jill Hermann-Wilmarth, professor of Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies has been named a 2023 Outstanding Elementary Educator in the English Language Arts. The award is given by the National Council of Teachers and recognizes distinguished educators who have made outstanding contributions to

elementary language arts education. Hermann-Wilmarth is known for her work focused on elementary LGBT-inclusive instruction and in 2018 she co-authored a children's book titled "Reading the Rainbow: LGBT-Inclusive Literacy in the Elementary Classroom".

Questions included:

- Since the Bernhard Center is closing, will the Bernhard name be carried on elsewhere on campus. President Montgomery stated that work is being done to carryforward the name, but it has yet to be determined how.
- Due to the recent bank failures in California, it was asked if WMU's monies are safe. President Montgomery assured that WMU did not have any exposure to the banks that failed and there is no reason to be concerned.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Julian Vasquez Heilig

The new College of Education and Human Development Dean Laura Dinehart, pending board approval, begins 1 July. Hailing from Florida International University, an R1 public research institution in Miami, Dinehart currently serves as the university's dean of the School of Education and Human Development in FIU's College of Arts, Sciences, and Education. It is exciting and fortunate to have Dinehart, an accomplished academic leader and researcher, join WMU. She has been instrumental in expanding programmatic offerings and the research enterprise in her current role at FIU, and the provost is confident that she will continue to elevate WMU's College of Education and Human Development. Provost Vasquez Heilig expressed immense appreciation to the search committee, led by Dean Ron Cisler, and to Kristal Ehrhardt for her work in overseeing the continued vitality of the college during this transition.

Provost Vasquez Heilig asked for assistance in spreading the word about the Student Appreciation Scholarship. The scholarship is being offered to students who enroll in at least one undergraduate or graduate summer course by Friday 7 April, and share with the provost office their single best student appreciation idea by 8 May. Ten students enrolled in at least one summer course who submit the best student appreciation idea will earn a full tuition scholarship to use this fall.

Faculty, please inform any colleagues interested in developing leadership skills and advancing their career to the Dream Fellowship website, where they can apply to participate in the inclusive leadership development program. WMU is in search of the best and the brightest who'd like to take the next step in their professional career. Applications are due by Monday, 17 April.

Provost Vasquez Heilig spoke about several meetings he recently attended:

- University of Michigan presidential inauguration
- Lunch with Arnold Taylor, Interim Deputy Chief Information Officer and Director Support Services.
- Lunch with LatinX Employee Association
- Welcomed students to the Grand Rapids admitted student event, WMU to YOU-Grand Rapids.
- Presented on Dysconscious Race and Focused Education Policy at the 2023 Loyola University Chicago Law Journal Conference. The conference theme was based on the 1973 landmark case San Antonio Independent School District vs. Rodriguez. <https://blogs.luc.edu/lawjournal/>
- He spoke to Elizabeth Cowan's class on civil rights focusing on the creation of charter schools.
- Visited the Waldo Library and toured the collections and state-of-the-art facilities. The lower level reopened to students in January and has been refreshed with new carpet, ceiling tiles and energy-efficient lighting.
- Will be meeting with the Kalamazoo Promise leadership tomorrow.

Provost Vasquez Heilig provided an enrollment update:

- Projections for graduate enrollment is up 3%
- Undergraduates are down 3.3% based on yield from last year.

Faculty Senate Council Reports

Amy Bocko, chair of the Academic and Information Technology Council provided an update on the council's activities which included 2022-23 highlights and accomplishments; instruction modalities and classroom technology; faculty representation and feedback in campus-technology initiatives; technology services; and commitment to communication.

<https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2023/20230406-AITC.pdf>

Jonathan Bush, Faculty Director of WMU Essential Studies and Randy Ott, Senior Director of Academic Collaboration provided an update which included the current state of WMU Essential Studies; building the administrative and assessment rhythm; growth and two guiding concepts; assessment continual improvement; fourth year course assessment; fourth year program assessment; preparing and planning upcoming event on 21 April from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Brown Hall, room 3025.

<https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2023/20230406-WES-Update.pdf>

Questions included:

- It was asked what the percentage of WMU Essential Studies courses have submitted assessment data. Bush replied 92%.
- Students still refer to WMU Essential Studies as general education, how is that narrative being targeted to be changed. Bush explained the soon to be launched WMU Essential Studies search engine targeting students which will include nonacademic wording and perspective.
- The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences indicated that students entering the college do not have basic skills knowledge and there is no flexibility in developing WMU Essential Studies course for engineering students. Bush suggested that he meet with the faculty member individually. He provided examples of specific majors that have similar requirements that have incorporated WMU Essential Studies courses.
- How will it be determined during the fourth-year review if a WMU Essential Studies course is performing as expected. How is success measured through assessment? What data is being reviewed to ensure courses are doing what is expected. Bush noted that the cyclical course review serves as a “check-up” and establishes that courses are following the SLOs and that departments are paying attention to the course data.
- It was asked how the Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) will be reviewed. Bush explained that is still being figured out.
- How can WMU Essential Studies encourage students to study abroad, as it appears to make it more complicated to do so. Bush stated that study abroad can be applied in Level 1 and/or Level 2 courses. Either they are articulated already and/or advisors have the same authority. Ott acknowledged there is still more work to do with WMU Essential Studies.
- Bush reiterated that as the Faculty Director for WMU Essential Studies, he is the point person for any questions, be sure to contact him.

University Reports

WMU General Counsel Keith Hahn provided the annual email access report. One account was accessed from the spouse of a student that had died, and two staff members that were on medical leave had their accounts accessed for business purposes by their departments.

Cheng Kidd Sun, president of the Western Student Association gave an update on activities which included strategic planning from 2023 through 2026; campus community; greater Kalamazoo community; well-being; sustainability; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and overall metrics. President Kidd Sun asked faculty to distribute the WSA survey to better understand students' challenges and interest. Students are asked to complete this survey by Wednesday 12 April, 7 p.m.: https://wmich.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3zc0j5PZOWyI91s
<https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2023/20230406-WSA.pdf>

Questions included:

- An update on the WSA neighborhood association proposal was asked for. Kidd Sun explained that there is planning underway to carry that initiative over the new WSA leadership since it has yet to be completed.
- It was questioned if students have expressed a need for busses to be available to and from the Floyd campus over the weekend. Kidd Sun stated that the need that was discovered was for busses to the Floyd campus after 9:30 p.m. which is being addressed and busses should soon be available until 11:30 p.m.

The Annual Athletic Board report was provided by Chair Luchara Wallace along with Julian Jones, senior athletic director for broncos empowered and Lorne Robertson, senior athletic director for compliance and academic accomplishments. The presentation included the list of board members; Athletics executive staff listing; student athletes GPAs; and Broncos Empowered initiative.

<https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2023/20230406-Athletic%20Board%20Update.pdf>

Questions included:

- It was suggested that the Athletic Board be more diverse and have additional colleges represented since there are just three included.
- When asked for examples, chair Wallace talked about interventions for students that may struggle, including study table, meeting with learning specialists weekly, quickly identifying issues, feedback from faculty in progress reports, identifying resources, and the addition of two graduate assistants.

Professional Concerns

- No concerns were expressed.

Adjournment

President Summy adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m. The next Faculty Senate meeting will be held on 11 May 2023 in room 4010 of the College of Health and Human Services at 5 p.m. and streamed live via Mediasite.

Approval

Submitted by Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator.

Minutes approved on _____ 2023.

DRAFT