
**Undergraduate Studies Council
Minutes of 2 March 2021****Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Undergraduate Studies Council was called to order at 3:05 p.m. 2 March 2021 through a virtual Webex meeting by Michael Duffy, vice chair.

Roll Call

Members in Attendance: Deanna Bush, Steven Carr (substituting for Colin MacCreery), Carrie Cumming, Michael Duffy, Clifton Ealy, Steven Eberth, Bruce Ferrin, Stephen Hasenick (substituting for Jessica Birnbaum), Eli Lantz, Elijah Lewis, Irma Lopez, Dianna Sachs, Daniela Schroeter, Nicolas Witschi
Member Absent: Kate LaLonde

Academic Advising Liaison Present: Betsy Drummer

Advisory Members Present: Edwin Martini

Ex Officio Present: Matthew Mingus

Guest(s): Paulo Zagalo-Melo, Associate Provost for Haenicke Institute for Global Education

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Agenda

It was moved by Ferrin, seconded by Lopez, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

It was moved by Lewis, seconded by Lopez, to approve the 9 February 2021 minutes as amended. With one abstention the motion carried.

Ealy joined the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

Lewis joined the meeting at 3:12 p.m.

Reports of Officers

Chair Ealy asked Mingus to speak to Charge #6: *Identify approaches and methods used to increase civility and respect in order to create a safe environment both within the Faculty Senate and the University.*

Mingus reported that the Faculty Senate Executive Board has removed Charge #6 for all Councils and is looking at ways to strengthen the use of the existing aspirational Civility Statement across the University. This did not reflect a belief that these issues are less important throughout the University. Mingus forwarded the Civility Statement to all USC members and stressed a lack of civility that has been growing for many years at Western and has been increased by virtual environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For this reason, the council will not address Charge #6.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

Eisenhart did not provide a report of Intellectual Skills Program Advisory Committee.

Hennessey did not provide a report of Transfer of Credit Committee.

Unfinished Business

In reference to Charge #3: *Research policies and best practices, and recommend established guidelines, to determine if a newly created degree is a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree* Witschi reminded the council that it is not common for universities to define a difference between BA and BS degrees. He also noted that WMU currently offers nine types of bachelor's degrees. It was moved by Duffy, seconded by Ferrin, to recommend to the Executive Board, that it be left to individual programs to determine which type of bachelor degree best fits the nature of the program based on disciplinary and professional standards. The motion carried unanimously.

Ferrin led a discussion of Charge #5: *Identify and address policies, programs, and practices that will ensure considerations of diversity, equity, and inclusion within the Faculty Senate and the University.* He asked the council to consider how issues surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) can and should be addressed within the undergraduate curriculum. Consider how instructors can be supported to integrate DEI more into their curriculum. Office of Faculty Development (OFD) is already offering a number of workshops/programs. Discussion was held regarding ways to gather evidence of what WMU is already doing to support faculty in integrating DEI into curricula so that we can identify gaps. Ealy will invite Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion Candy McCorkle to discuss existing initiatives and potential for future initiatives.

In reference to Charge #4: *Collaborate with the International Education Council and the Graduate Studies Council to provide recommendations on how to best support faculty in the area of global learning (e.g. global classrooms, virtual study abroad, international curriculum)* Discussion will be held at future meeting.

Zagalo-Melo joined the meeting at 4 p.m.

Hasenick left the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Reports of University Representatives

Zagalo-Melo reported on Global Learning, and how Haenicke Institute for Global Education is facilitating such efforts at WMU.

Martini left the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Zagalo-Melo let meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Carr left meeting at 4:50 p.m.

New Business

None.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

It was moved by Sachs, seconded by Eberth, to adjourn the meeting at 4:52 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Undergraduate Studies Council will meet next on 13 April 2021 on a virtual Webex meeting at 3 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Dianna E. Sachs, Secretary

Minutes approved this thirteenth day of April 2021.