

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL  
Tuesday, 19 January 2010, 3 p.m.  
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

**Members present:** R. Aravamuthan, K. Baldner, B. Ferrin, K. Hillenbrand, I. Nash, D. Nisula, D. Reinhold (for Provost Greene), D. Ravotas, A. Smith, J. Wu

**Absent without substitution:** A. Anderson, D. Cowan, K. Hearit, D. Sachs, V. Torano, G. Whitehurst

**Guests:** Eileen Evans, vice provost for institutional effectiveness, Cathe Springsteen, project coordinator, Office of Institutional Effectiveness

**Also present:** Jeanine Bartholomew, academic advising liaison; Betty Dennis, associate dean, Extended University Programs; Steve Miller, Advocacy Office for Transfer Students and Military Affairs

**Procedural Items**

Council Chair Bruce Ferrin called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

*Acceptance of Agenda*

Baldner moved acceptance of the agenda, seconded by Hillenbrand. Motion carried.

*Approval of the Minutes*

Reinhold moved approval of the minutes of 8 December 2009, seconded by Hillenbrand. Motion carried.

**Discussion Items**

*2009 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) findings – Eileen Evans, Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness*

Vice Provost Eileen Evans addressed the council regarding the NSSE findings for academic years 2008-09. This survey applies only to undergraduates, first year students, and graduating seniors. The survey examines five different broad categories. The level of engagement for our seniors was lower than those of our comparison group in all five areas. Nevertheless, the findings contain a lot of data, and much of it suggests a high degree of student engagement and satisfaction. The data presented to the council will be available on the Institutional Effectiveness Web site in approximately two weeks.

*Review of WMU Dismissal Policy – David Reinhold, Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Programs*

Associate Provost Reinhold addressed the council. The request to review this policy has come from the provost. The Executive Board of the Faculty Senate has determined that the ultimate recommendation for any policy changes should come from the Professional Concerns Committee. Hence, any recommendations from the council will not be made directly to the Faculty Senate, but instead the Professional Concerns Committee. The provost would like to consider the criteria for a student to be placed on probationary status. Reinhold volunteered to bring back to the council the specific policy language addressing academic probation, so that the council can consider recommendations regarding the actual policy language.

**Other**

Nash wondered if there were ways for the council to operate that would lessen the amount of paper we use.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Baldner