

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL
Tuesday, 14 September 2010, 3 p.m.
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

Members Present: A. Anderson, N. Andreadis, R. Aravamuthan, K. Baldner, B. Ferrin, K. Hearit, K. Hillenbrand, P. Krawutschke, M. Kritzman, D. Ravotas, D. Reinhold (for Provost T. Greene), D. Sachs, C. Thralls, V. Torano, G. Whitehurst

Absent without substitution: None.

Guests: Eileen Evans, vice provost for institutional effectiveness, Tim Greene, provost and vice president for academic affairs

Also present: Janice Anderson, Faculty Senate Office; Jeanine Bartholomew, academic advising liaison; Betty Dennis, associate dean, Extended University Programs; Steve Miller, director, Office of Transfer Student Services

Procedural Items

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

Acceptance of Agenda

Anderson moved acceptance of the agenda, seconded by Kritzman. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Aravamuthan moved approval of the minutes of 8 June 2010, seconded by Ravotas. Motion carried.

Chair's Remarks

Chair Ferrin welcomed new and returning members of the council. He noted that David Cowan has a time conflict this term, and has hence resigned from the council. The Senate is looking to fill the position. There are as yet no student members.

Action Items

Election of Members to Committee to Oversee General Education

John Geiser, Biological Sciences, was re-elected as the College and Arts of Sciences – Sciences and Mathematics representative on COGE. Marcia Fetters, Teaching, Learning, and Educational Studies, was re-elected as the representative from the College of Education and Human Development.

Information/Discussion Items

Tim Greene – Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Provost Greene addressed the council. He thanked members for their service. Today is the date for final calculation for fall enrolment. Figures will be known soon, but are expected to be up, as is the retention rate (of freshman to sophomores). The Dean's Council is working with the provost on implementation of the Academic Strategic Plan. The provost also asked council members to remind faculty that textbook orders for spring 2011 are due by 28 September. He also indicated that he would be working with the Faculty Senate regarding urging departments to create a "syllabus of record" for each course within the department. Finally, he thanked Eileen Evans for her work preparing the Higher Learning Commission visitation.

Upcoming Higher Learning Commission Visit – Eileen Evans, Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness

Eileen Evans addressed the council regarding this visit, our ten-year re-accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission. Representatives of the HLC will arrive in Kalamazoo on 17 October. They will arrive on campus the following day, 18 October, and have various meetings with faculty, students, and staff. They will offer a preliminary report to President John Dunn before leaving on 20 October. Evans described the nature of the accreditation process, the "self-study" the University has created, and what students, faculty and staff might expect from the reviewers during this visit.

Other

Keith Hearit addressed the council regarding various enrollment issues. The University has launched its most recent round of advertising, the results of which can be seen on billboards near you. He concluded with an enrollment update.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Baldner