

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

CAMPUS PLANNING AND FINANCE COUNCIL
Minutes of Tuesday, 21 February 2012, 3 p.m.
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

Members present: Raja Aravamuthan, Aekam Barot, Richard Gershon, Harold Glasser, Dean Honsberger, C.R. Krishna-Swamy, Kathleen Langan, Dennis McCrumb, Gail Rouscher, Paul Solomon, Jan Van Der Kley and Gay Walker
Guests: Kelsi DeBruyn, Western Student Association; Terry Hudson, Director, WMU Bookstore; Linda Poquette, Office of the Vice President for Business and Finance; and Baiba Stepe, Director, Auxiliary Enterprises

Procedural Items

Welcome

Council Chair Rick Gershon welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Acceptance of the Agenda

A motion was made by Barot to accept the agenda as presented, supported by Glasser. Motion passed.

Approval of the Minutes of 24 January 2012

A motion was made by Honsberger to approve the minutes of 24 January 2012, supported by Van Der Kley. Motion passed.

Chair's Comments – Rick Gershon

Gershon stated he would like to address questions or concerns that are conveyed to him in the future regarding campus planning by inviting the appropriate individuals to answer and discuss any questions that have been presented to him. Gershon welcomed guests Terry Hudson and Baiba Stepe.

Information/Discussion Items

*University Bookstores – Terry Hudson, Director, WMU Bookstore and
Baiba Stepe, Director, Auxiliary Enterprises*

Hudson gave a presentation on the current bookstores. He highlighted the market trends, the current actions that have been implemented and future plans.

In summarizing the trends, Hudson stated students are renting books and buying online. Ebooks are expected to be popular with students and will have a big impact on future sales. Efficiencies in textbook processing will need to be implemented in the future.

Course packs will still be available for purchase and they will also be available in the libraries for students to review.

Budget – Dean Honsberger

Honsberger provided highlights of the proposed Governor's budget, which has many future stages to go through including the Senate review, House review, and the Joint Allocation Sub-Committee before the state budget is finalized during the summer months. In the Governor's budgetary proposal, the allocation of money is based on various metrics as set forth, including increased university enrollments. There is also a base funded provision for tuition restraint incentives for those universities that stay at or lower than a 4 percent tuition increase in 2012/13. This tuition restraint language seems to be designed in such a way to give additional financial incentives to the universities that keep their tuition increase percentages closer to zero. It is interesting to note that except for the base funded tuition restraint funding, the rest of the proposed Governor's budget is recommending one-time allocation increases to the universities for 2012/13.

In our current 2011/12 fiscal year, there is a projected tuition shortfall of 2.1 percent (approximately 2.5 million dollars), which is mostly caused from fewer credit hours generated in the spring semester. There are several possibilities as to why the shortfall has occurred. Spring credit hours may have declined approximately 3.5% due to a large number of seniors who may be taking fewer classes. Possibly, students may have switched to Extended University Programs (online courses), which does not generate on-campus tuition revenues. Monies generated in EUP are separately collected and support separate academic programming and associated infrastructure costs, including the maintenance of off-campus buildings. Honsberger noted that the 2011/12 tuition shortfall will have a negative impact on us when planning next fiscal year's budget.

The Enrollment Forecasting Committee reported that a large group of seniors will graduate and the freshmen enrollment hasn't kept up with the number of graduates. Information regarding transfers is not available at this time and the specific decline will not be determined until spring.

Van Der Kley added that the capital outlay rules are changing and the state favors repurposing, sustainability and job creation. Money may not be available for new projects.

Other Business

There was no further business.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn by Van Der Kley and supported by Honsberger. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Poquette, Recording Secretary