

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

CAMPUS PLANNING AND FINANCE COUNCIL
Minutes of Tuesday, 15 May 2012, 3 p.m.
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

Members present: Raja Aravamathan, Aekam Barot, David Dakin, Kelsi DeBruyn, Richard Gershon, Kevin High (for Gail Rouscher), Dean Honsberger, Kathleen Langan, Dennis McCrumb, Paul Pancella (for Harold Glasser), Paul Solomon, Jan Van Der Kley, and Gay Walker.

Guests: Diane Anderson, Vice President for Student Affairs; Robert Miller, Associate Vice President for Community Outreach; Linda Poquette, Office of the Vice President for Business and Finance; Sandra Steinbach, Associate Vice President for Business and Finance, Pete Strazdas, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management

Procedural Items

Welcome

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

Acceptance of the Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes of 20 March 2012

A motion was made by Van Der Kley to approve the minutes of 20 March 2012, supported by Dakin. Motion passed.

Chair's Comments – Rick Gershon

Gershon confirmed the additions to the agenda, which included a presentation by Gay Walker on the Serenity Park and Labyrinth proposal at the College of Health and Human Services and discussion concerning the Kalamazoo College Athletic Complex. He then welcomed Diane Anderson.

Information/Discussion Items

Planning for Housing and Dining Facilities – Diane Anderson

Anderson began by giving an overall view on the Dining and Housing Strategy. Phase II, Western View Apartments, is scheduled to open in fall 2013. Phase II is west of Phase I. Construction of the apartment buildings was picked first as there is a waiting list to move into the apartments and the site was easiest to complete for student housing. Long range plans will focus on freshmen.

Once Phase II has been completed, there will be some parking available in this area. Other parking areas will be added such as at the Haworth College of Business and behind Sangren, which will be available in the spring of next year.

A long-term master plan is in process and will be forthcoming when the plans are in place.

In answering questions, Anderson stated that the new apartments will not increase the number of housing units as other apartments are coming down. Also, the percentage of freshmen living on campus is equal to other universities and WMU freshmen live on campus by choice. She reported that the dining area is working very well in Sprau Tower.

Budget – Dean Honsberger

Honsberger presented slides on state appropriation from 2000-12. It is interesting to note that in 1980, state appropriations made up 71.5% of the general fund revenue budget with tuition at 26.6%. In current day, this picture has been reversed and tuition is now 70.9% of the general fund revenue budget.

The Joint Allocation Sub-Committee meets on 16 May and Honsberger stated that the final recommendation for the 2012/13 appropriation allocations will probably end up somewhere between what the state Senate and House recommended. Van Der Kley added that it was recognized there is a significant inequity of payment into the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System by WMU. The University pays on those that are currently in MPSERS and on employees that are no longer in the program. It is expected that shifting responsibility for liability of MPSERS will take place.

The 2012/13 General Fund Budget outlook was reviewed. Even with a possible increase in state funding, the outlook is somewhat depressed caused by our need for larger enrollments. The governor, state house, and senate are all proposing tuition increase restraint language in their appropriation bills which presents another real challenge when balancing our budget.

Honsberger reported that when looking at the 2011/12 undergraduate resident lower tuition and fees across all public universities, WMU remains a great value, ranking 10th compared to other Universities. By the end of the month, we should have a better picture as to the 2012/13 appropriations from the state.

Serenity Park and Labyrinth – Gay Walker

Walker provided information about Serenity Park and Labyrinth. She gave a summary as to how the labyrinth came about, which was from a student, Nate Boyt, who thought the labyrinth would work well as a dedicated space at the College of Health and Human Services. The Serenity Park and Labyrinth Project will use the plan of a wheel and the CHHS will be considered the hub with many areas within close proximity.

Phase I will move forward. This phase will be built by an honor student as his thesis project. He will be assisted by faculty and students. A team from CHHS will work with a landscape architect to plan for the Serenity Park and this plan needs to include the cost of maintenance.

Walker stated they are working with Development for donations from alumni for this project. She feels that this project will be the same high quality as the CHHS building and asked for everyone's support in this venture.

Kalamazoo College Athletic Complex and WMU's Support

Gershon brought up concerns regarding the lighting for Kalamazoo College's Athletic Complex and WMU's support for the project. Bob Miller, at a City of Kalamazoo Planning Commission meeting, stated that WMU supports the master plan for Kalamazoo College and did not speak to specifics such as the lighting. The Planning Commission approved the master plan for K College. K College will have to follow a city ordinance, which is in planning stages, and should be completed in 2016.

Other Business

Gershon requested that anyone interested in chairing this council to contact him before the next meeting on 19 June.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn by Honsberger, seconded by Solomon. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Poquette, Recording Secretary