

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

CAMPUS PLANNING AND FINANCE COUNCIL
Minutes of Tuesday, 16 April 2013, at 3 p.m.
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

Members present: David Dakin, Richard Gershon, Dean Honsberger, Kathleen Langan, Dennis McCrumb, Paul Pancella (for Harold Glasser), Paul Solomon, Jan Van Der Kley and Gay Walker

Guests: John M. Dunn, President; Jim Gilchrist, Vice Provost for Budget and Personnel and Chief Information Officer; Timothy Greene, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Linda Poquette, Office of the Vice President for Business and Finance

Procedural Items

Welcome

Paul Solomon, Acting Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Acceptance of the Agenda

Paul Solomon began by stating that Harold Glasser would not be able to attend the meeting and asked for a motion to amend the agenda. A motion was made by Honsberger to accept the agenda with the deletion of item 3 under Informational/Discussion Items, Office of Sustainability Update, supported by McCrumb. Motion passed.

Approval of the Minutes of 19 March 2013

A motion was made by Gershon to approve the minutes of 19 March 2013, supported by Walker. Motion passed.

Acting Chair's Comments – Paul Solomon

Solomon thanked President John Dunn on behalf of Chair David Lemberg for his consideration of the plans for the new dining hall.

Information/Discussion Items

2013-14 General Fund Budget – John M. Dunn and Dean K. Honsberger

President John Dunn reviewed the components of the current 2012-13 General Fund Revenue Budget. He then displayed an analysis of state appropriation support to WMU from 2000-01 to 2012-13 and noted the dramatic drop in the state appropriations component and the dramatic increase in the tuition

component. He stated that good decisions have been made along the way to keep the University viable.

President Dunn and Honsberger then reviewed the 2012-13 General Fund Expense Budget, noting that compensation is the largest component at 65.6 percent. It was also noted that since 2003-04 the general fund budget has been reduced by over 65.8 million dollars. During the same time period, 55.4 million in program adjustments have been added netting to an overall reduction of 10.5 million since 2003-04.

The General Fund Budget Update for 2013-14 was discussed by giving the different state appropriation increase options that are currently under consideration in the Governor's Office, the State House of Representatives, and the State Senate. While each of these entities is recommending a modest increase to the WMU state appropriation base, all of the recommendations come with tuition increase restraint language. Both the Governor's Office and the State Senate mandates that tuition increases will be less than 4% and the House mandates tuition increases to be less than 3%. We are expecting to get more defined state appropriation increase information from the State of Michigan by the end of May.

Other revenue elements that impact the budget are enrollment changes and the amount of credit hours students take. Beginning enrollments are up but the impact of a decrease in transfer enrollments combined with a large graduating class has a negative impact on the tuition revenue budget. Also affecting the budget's bottom line is the shift in credit hours from on campus to online credit hours causing a revenue decrease in the on campus tuition revenue budget.

President Dunn stated there are financial challenges ahead and both academic and non-academic departments will need to be financially viable. The Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System allocation process as administered by the State of Michigan needs to be changed. We would like the University to be treated the same as K-12 entities. Van Der Kley added that this is an area that not only this University but others are working to correct.

President Dunn indicated that we need to keep an open mind and be creative when analyzing our budgets. He added that we need to be more creative in funding financial aid packages, especially with the increases in tuition that have occurred. We also need to look at our department configurations to see if changes can be made to save money.

President Dunn wants to keep this council advised on the budget process. Van Der Kley stated that Honsberger updates the council on a regular basis.

The president addressed the questions concerning East Hall and the new dining facility. The council will be advised of the new timetable for the dining hall.

Miller Plaza Enhancement – David Dakin and Rick Gershon

Gershon presented the new design features with photographs of different ideas and material options. The concept was to build on what is there, add a little more green space and in the future to introduce a sculpture. Gershon stated this is a major meeting point in addition to the area at Sangren.

In moving ahead with this project, some areas will need to be completed by the end of this summer and the balance to be completed the following year. Solomon's perspective was that we shouldn't move forward and more stakeholders should be involved, especially students from the Department of Theatre. Gershon responded that many were involved in the process. The council is a representation of the campus and the plan was brought to the members to be inclusive.

Van Der Kley stated this is a campus space enjoyed by everyone and confirmed that many were included in the planning process, including architects that were familiar with the area.

As the project is funded by Business and Finance in this fiscal year and so the opportunity would not be missed, a motion was made by McCrumb to move forward with the WMU Fountain Plaza Redesign, supported by Langan. Due to time constraints and his preference to have all council members present, Solomon relinquished his duties as acting chair.

A quorum of council members was present and Honsberger called the question, seconded by Langan. Gershon assumed the role as acting chair in order for the remaining business to be completed. A vote on the motion to move forward with the WMU Fountain Plaza Redesign was taken and the motion passed.

Other Business

Gershon reported that Lemberg asked for someone to participate on the East Hall project and to date there has not been a response from anyone for this commitment.

Van Der Kley thanked everyone for their thought process and for their commitment to Western Michigan University.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Linda Poquette, Recording Secretary