

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE

CAMPUS PLANNING AND FINANCE COUNCIL  
Minutes of Tuesday, 18 March 2014, at 3 p.m.  
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

**Members present:** Raja Aravamuthan, David Dakin, Kieran Fogarty, Harold Glasser, Jamie Gomez (Graduate Student Advisory Committee), Dean Honsberger, C.R. Krishna-Swamy, Kathleen Langan, Pat Langworthy (for Gail Rouscher), David Lemberg, Gary Mathews, Dennis McCrumb, Jan Van Der Kley and Gay Walker

**Guests:** Lisa Knutson, Director of Marketing and Creative Development, Auxilliary Enterprises; Jim Gilchrist, Vice Provost for Budget and Personnel and Chief Information Officer; Peter Strazdas, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management; Colleen Scarff, University Budgets and Financial Planning; Baiba Stepe, Director, Auxilliary Enterprises; and Patti Van Walbeck, Associate Vice President for Business and Finance

#### Procedural Items

##### *Welcome*

Council Chair David Lemberg welcomed everyone to the meeting at 3 p.m.

##### *Acceptance of the Agenda*

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

##### *Approval of the Minutes of 18 February 2014*

A motion was made by Honsberger to approve the minutes of 18 February 2014, supported by Van Walbeck (for Van Der Kley). Motion passed.

##### *Chair's Comments – David Lemberg*

Lemberg held comments due to the full agenda.

#### Information/Discussion Items

##### *General Fund Budget Update – Dean Honsberger*

Honsberger provided a general budget update beginning with a 2013/14 breakdown of general fund budgeted revenues and expenditures. WMU state appropriation per equated student is \$4503 and when compared to the other 14 state public universities, we are seventh from the top or in the middle of the pack. If WMU's state appropriations increase, our status on this comparison chart may

still be negatively impacted if our enrollment decreases. It was also noted that WMU is a great buy as we are ninth in the state on a chart that displays 2013/14 average in-state undergraduate tuition and required fee costs.

Honsberger discussed the 2013/14 general fund budget revenue and expense changes (see [www.budget.wmich.edu](http://www.budget.wmich.edu) – General Fund Budget Outlook 2013/14) that were presented to the WMU Board of Trustees at the 12 June 2013 meeting. A review of this information serves as a good reference or reminder of general fund budgetary revenue and expenditure component relationships.

As we approach the 2014/15 fiscal year, the governor's state budgetary recommendations have been made. There are now three more major steps to complete (Senate budget, House budget, and finally Joint Subcommittee) before a new WMU 2014/15 state appropriation allocation is known. It is important to note that future university tuition restraint language is still being discussed in Lansing and if enacted, could inhibit our ability to balance the budget.

It is still too early to predict enrollment changes but, currently, the enrollment committee is predicting a decrease of -2.25 percent in overall on-campus enrollment. Jim Gilchrist reviewed the process for predicting enrollment. Gilchrist hopes to have a better indication for predicted enrollment in April.

On the expenditure side, we are making progress on what is paid for in the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System. Van Der Kley stated that seven impacted universities (including WMU) are demonstrating why the universities should be treated the same as K-12 and the libraries rather than receiving a significantly higher MPSERS cost from the state. An outside firm was hired to present this information to the state and we feel that progress is being made.

The national trend for the increase in healthcare costs is 14 percent. WMU's cost increase trend is 5 percent. Also, rules have changed impacting our university. If an employee works more than 30 hours per week, health insurance has to be offered. Under the Affordable Care Act, if temporary appointees work more than 30 hours, insurance also has to be offered. If term employees are hired, there are only fringe costs.

Honsberger introduced Colleen Scarff, who, upon his retirement at the end of May, will be the executive director of University Budgets.

##### *Student Bus System – Baiba Stepe, Director, Auxilliary Enterprises*

Lisa Knutson and Baiba Stepe provided a presentation on the campus bus routes operated by Indian Trails. WMU also partners with Metro Transit to provide city wide access that includes West Michigan, Lovell, Solon, Kendall and Lafayette. WMU offers an Aviation shuttle that runs seven trips a day.

There is a website that provides the times bus service is available for both on- and off-campus sites. The URL address for the bus schedule and information is

[www.wmich.edu/broncotransit/](http://www.wmich.edu/broncotransit/). Mobile access is also available. During summer I 2014, a new system will roll out and students can track the bus on their smart phones or computers. They will always know the time the bus is available at their pickup location. By using this mobile app, a student will not have to go anywhere else for information.

Transportation surveys are used to help improve the system. Since 2007-09, there has been an increase in ridership from 278,442 to 500,000. The funding for this service comes from the general fund, student fees and parking services.

#### *Project Updates – Jan Van Der Kley*

Strazdas gave an update on the WMU Snowfall and Heat Energy Consumption. The criteria for a snow day, which begins at 3:30 a.m., was discussed. The weather alert forecast, the amount and timing of snowfall, temperature, roadways, sidewalk plowing, the weight of the snow, condition of the feeder routes and the state police reports are checked. The key issue is the timing of the snow. Van Der Kley may call the provost and the next call is to the president. The decision has to be made at 6:30 a.m.

Strazdas and Van Der Kley responded to the questions that followed. There are a lot of factors behind the scenes for each school in determining when to close. It is important to keep the campus safe when making the decision to close or stay open. The budget is not the determining factor in deciding when to close.

David Dakin provided the following project updates:

- Dining Hall – Design is continuing and the planners will come back with a final plan and the cost is approximately the same for each plan. The Division of Student Affairs knows that in ten years the interior will have to be redone. With the current placement of the dining facilities, roads will not have to be redone.
- Residence Halls – Parking will be completed around the residence halls and construction will begin.
- WMed – On track for a June completion with the exception of landscaping.
- East Hall – 25 March is the final open session on the design for East Hall. Dakin presented the current layout along with the parking that is available. He presented a rendering of both the front and back of the building. All are welcome to the meeting on 25 March.

Van Der Kley advised council members that the University is not purchasing the ten buildings near East Campus and the turn-around mock-up was completed.

#### **Other Business**

No other business

#### **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn at 4:25 p.m. by Fogarty, seconded by Honsberger. Motion passed.

Linda Poquette, Recording Secretary