

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

CAMPUS PLANNING AND FINANCE COUNCIL
Minutes of Tuesday 19 April 2016 at 3 p.m.
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

Members present: Raja Aravamuthan, Todd Barkman, David Dakin, Kieran Fogarty, Harold Glasser, Joshua Greenman (Graduate Student Association), Kathleen Langan, Gary Mathews, Colleen Scarff, Jan Van Der Kley and Gay Walker

Guests: Mark Frever, Landscape Services; James Gilchrist, Vice Provost for Budget and Personnel and Chief Information Officer; Nicholas Gooch, Horticulturalist; Tim Holysz, Landscape Services; Nathan Sharrer, Arborist; Pete Strazdas, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management; Patti Van Walbeck, Associate Vice President for Business and Finance, and Linda Poquette, Business and Finance

Procedural Items

Welcome

Kieran Fogarty, chair, welcomed Pete Strazdas, Mark Frever, Tim Holysz, guests and council members to the meeting.

Acceptance of the Agenda

A motion was made to accept the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

Approval of the Minutes of 15 March 2016

A motion was made to approve the minutes of 15 March 2016. Barkman presented to the council a revised copy of the minutes that included grammatical and word/phrase changes to improve the flow of the minutes. The council agreed to accept the changes only if the content was not changed. Barkman agreed that the intent was not to change the content. A motion was made to approve the minutes of 15 March 2016 with the noted corrections. Motion passed.

Chair's Comments – Kieran Fogarty

Fogarty requested items that council members would like to discuss at the May meeting. He was trying to determine whether a meeting should be held. It may be possible to have a tour of the Valley Dining Center at the next meeting. Fogarty will contact members to see if there will be a quorum for the May meeting.

Information/Discussion Items

*Todd Barkman – CPFC Subcommittee to Assess
Incentive-Based Budget Models at WMU*

Barkman attended the April 7 Faculty Senate meeting and was allowed ten minutes to present the report of the CPFC Subcommittee's to Assess Incentive-Based Budget Models at WMU. There was only one question and it was about summer teaching. The Faculty Senate will go over the action items listed in the report. All thanked Barkman and the committee for their work on this report.

*Pete Strazdas – Different and Sustainable Ways to
Manage Campus Grounds*

Strazdas introduced Nicholas Gooch, Horticulturalist and ISA Certified Arborist, and Nathan Scharrer, ISA Certified Arborist, to make the presentation on different and sustainable ways to manage campus grounds using goats as a tool for campus woodlot management.

Gooch and Scharrer provided a booklet to each council member and an overview PowerPoint presentation was given regarding this process. Landscape management has been dealing with problematic species for a number of years that affect campus woodlots and goats eat what is not wanted. Current practices include the use of herbicides, tools and machinery and cause severe site disruption. The end result is better by utilizing goats and there are cost savings. The University of Michigan and some municipalities have utilized goats with success.

The plan is to bring in 10 to 12 goats near the valleys and within 5 to 7 days the space will be cleared.

The goats are contained in a fence, which is set up and provided by the contractor, and the noise is minimal. After using the goats on a quarter of an acre, the process would be reviewed and a decision made as to whether it should be continued. It was noted that this is a pilot program with the possibility to expand. This is also an opportunity to include academic areas. Holysz provided the cost to keep an area clean with equipment.

There may be sections that plant(s) should not be eaten and those areas will have to be enclosed. Members noted that this is another accolade for Landscape Services and a huge benefit is not using herbicides. Barkman does not know of anything particularly valuable in the test area and he will work with Landscape Services to protect wildlife.

A motion was made that the plan to use goats to manage campus grounds is supported by this council. Motion supported and passed unanimously.

Jan Van Der Kley – Updates

Enrollment is down and, for budgeting purposes, a three percent decrease will be used. Enrollment will continue to be monitored and we are waiting for a decision from the state legislature as to the allocations. A budget will be brought to the Board of Trustees at the June 29 meeting. There may be a tuition increase within the guidelines of the tuition constraints. Gilchrist added that there are interesting signs regarding enrollment and stated that the yield rate is better. He is optimistic but has to go with the enrollment data. We are currently in a holding pattern.

In response to questions concerning enrollment, the Battle Creek (Miller College) students are figured in and last year's freshmen class was a bit smaller than the previous year. Transfer enrollment at WMU is steady. An initiative is directed at students in Illinois as the opportunities for strong enrollment from this area are good due to financial constraints at the universities in Illinois. A focus is for the enrollment of Illinois high school students. Also, there is a sharp decline in teachers taking classes due to the change in certification requirements and we are down for the summer session.

Due to the decrease in enrollment, there is a budget deficit and a determination has not been made as to where the cuts will be made.

The Board of Trustees meets on Thursday, April 21, and will share an evaluation of the president. On June 7, a full retreat day is scheduled for the BOT with a focus on the next presidential search. The Faculty Senate has changed its timing of the president's evaluation and when it will be given to the BOT.

Two property acquisitions are currently underway, Ransom Street property to house the University's surplus, and downtown Grand Rapids for Extended University Programs to increase space. It is known as the Mel Trotter property.

Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn at 4:30 p.m. Motion passed.

Linda Poquette
Recording Secretary