

Unit Communication Notes
Faculty Senate Meeting
November 3, 2016

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Senate Executive Board Report (Suzan Ayers, Faculty Senate President)

-Captain Phillip Vandercook the newest senator from Military Science and Leadership was introduced.

-Presidential Search: The search firm will be Parker Executive Search out of Atlanta. The search process will include 3 days of faculty, staff, and student meetings in November to gather campus and community input. Information on these details will be on the search website (<http://wmich.edu/presidentialsearch>). A formal statement from the search committee will be released Friday 11/4/16.

-Dr. A. D. Issa is offering two workshops on essential retirement strategy. All employees are welcome regardless of employee group affiliation.

-The annual requests for the nominal faculty fee (\$20) was sent out this week. Additional information as well as an informational video are available on the Senate website (<http://wmich.edu/facultysenate/>).

-The notes from the October Faculty Senate meeting received good feedback. Please continue to share these with your colleagues.

Remarks by John Dunn, WMU President

-WMU made the Best for Vets list by Military Times magazines. We are 108 out of 600 among public universities. We are the only university in Michigan that has been on the list for eight consecutive years.

-WMU is one of five top performers in public engagement from the Association for Sustainability. Kudos to Harold Glasser, Executive Director for Campus Sustainability for his work on this.

-Election season is in the air and our political science experts have been active locally and internationally. President Dunn has issued a letter and produced a video encouraging the University community to vote. Dr. Dunn noted when celebrities come to campus in support of candidates, associated costs are covered by the campaign, not the University.

-NCAA Presidential Forum: Dr. Dunn represents the MAC in this group of 32 presidents. The most recent conference in Indianapolis provided opportunities to hear from student athletes on various topics including the recruitment process and practice time. Given the minute percentage of college athletes going on to professional sports, the focus must be on the **scholar** part of scholar-athletes. There are some programs that are very difficult/impossible to complete as an athlete due to time commitments and clinical requirements (e.g., Nursing and others with large practicum/field experience requirements).

Remarks by Tim Greene, WMU Provost & VP for Academic Affairs

-Search updates:

Lee Honors College Dean candidates presented this week.

Haworth College of Business Dean airport interviews were held last week and 3-5 on-campus interviews will be conducted after Thanksgiving.

-Fair Labor Standards Act (federal mandate): An update on who is (non)exempt, which includes employees earning between \$23,000 and \$47,000 (salaried) and \$42,000 (hourly). These people will be either paid the higher salary or converted to hourly pay rate. The changes will show up in December payroll. The bottom line is that employees will be fairly compensated and paid for overtime as required. About \$900,000 will be paid out of Academic Affairs. Additional information is available on our website (<http://www.wmich.edu/hr/handbook-employment>).

-Our annual **Building Priority List** has been submitted to the state, with **Dunbar** topping the WMU list. If funded by the state, Dunbar would be off-line for 18-24 months. This could happen as early as fall 2018.

-**2016 Academic Affairs Strategic Plan** is almost done. Value and missions have not changed and some things have been condensed (e.g., goals reduced from 8 to 5).

-**Academic Support Programs Review:** All of the offices and programs supporting the Academic Programs are conducting reviews (e.g., advising, admissions, etc.). Faculty assistance will be needed to review these plans in the future, much as we did for APR&P.

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Ad Hoc General Education Design Committee (Mervyn Elliott, Chair)

-The committee has met 8 times with their work being guided by the Senate-approved MOA-16/06.

-VP Bill Rantz is the liaison from Faculty Senate Executive Board.

-Faculty experts in different areas have been visiting with the committee and will continue to do so as the process moves ahead.

-The committee is working on the creation of a framework and how to communicate with the greater University community. This includes the launch of the faculty engagement/feedback site on E-Learning.

-On Monday a name survey will be opened on this site. The committee has identified a handful of names on which input will be sought as well as the suggestion of other possible names for the new curriculum.

-Some of the Q & A focused on involvement of part-time faculty, teaching of writing classes, new information environment (Google, for example), and how this committee interfaces with the Committee to Oversee General Education (COGE). The majority of questions regarded future steps in the process, so this information will be forthcoming.

University Libraries Update (Julie Garrison, Libraries Dean)

-**New York Times Subscription** through the University Libraries is now available free of charge to faculty.

-WMU has recently acquired a **12th Century manuscript** which has been highlighted in a recent Western News.

-The University Libraries currently has 350 course textbooks on reserve. For a few years, the high cost, high volume course materials have been placed on reserve. If faculty have a textbook that should be considered, please let the University Libraries know.

-Revised services in the University Libraries:

Research carrels have been open to graduate students. They need a letter from their faculty advisor or the graduate office to take advantage of this resource.

Loan periods have changed. All students and faculty now have semester-long loan periods with online renewals available. Faculty can have books for up to a year.

Overdue fines will no longer be assessed. Multiple e-mails will be sent before charges are billed for lost items.

Billing will be handled by the University instead of the University Libraries from now on. Fees will include \$75 for each item as well as a \$15 processing fee. This fee was calculated as the average cost of a lost book is \$75.

Hours: The library is now opening at 7:30AM to allow students to print before 8:00 AM classes.

-Renovations: The first floor of the main library is getting new carpet and some additional furniture.

There is a building program plan in process which involves an architectural firm and OIT.

The handout provided by Garrison will become part of the Faculty Senate record and be placed on the website.

Next meeting date: Thursday, 1 December 2016, Bernhard Center, Room 208-210