

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL  
Tuesday, 10 May 2016, 3 p.m.  
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

**Members present:** K. Ackerson, A. Anderson, K. Baldner, David Code (for L. Coons), Brian Gogan (for J. Cousins), K. Hillenbrand, C. Koretsky, M. Kritzman, D. Reinhold, C. Tremblay, D. Walcott, G. Whitehurst

**Absent without substitution:** R. Aravamuthan, J. Atkin, T. Fischman, D. Sachs, E. Schleis

**Guests:** Amy Curtis (Chair, Graduate Studies Council), Adrienne Fraaza (Fall Welcome Program Manager, First-Year Experience), Tricia Hennessy (Director, Frostic School of Art), Scott Irelan (Associate Dean, College of Fine Arts), Toni Woolfork-Barnes (Director, FYE)

**Procedural Items**

Council Chair M. Kritzman called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

*Acceptance of Agenda*

Anderson moved acceptance of the agenda, seconded by Tremblay. Motion carried.

*Approval of the Minutes*

Code moved approval of the minutes of 12 April 2016, seconded by Anderson. Motion carried.

*Chair's Remarks*

Kritzman welcomed Amy Curtis, chair of GSC, who was present to talk about the 5000-level course issue. Kritzman also reviewed what happened at the last Faculty Senate meeting. The council thanked various members who are leaving the council or changing roles.

**Action Items**

1. [ART5.15-16] Establish a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Product Design degree program – Tricia Hennessy and Scott Irelan  
Irelan addressed the council. The Product Design program aims to prepare students for professional practice as exceptional designers and thinkers who are committed to the advancement of the field. The program is a four-year course of study with an emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration among Design, Art, Engineering and Business programs. Through the study of design

history, theories, methodologies, contemporary technologies and internship experience, students gain knowledge and skills to develop and create design concepts that optimize the function, aesthetics, manufacturing and social values of products. The proposal is a response to increasing demand for skilled graduates in the field of Product Design. Studies show that in Michigan, product designers earn an annual salary of nearly \$70,000, about \$10,000 more than the national average. However, only a few institutions in Michigan currently offer undergraduate degrees in Product (Industrial) Design, and the design profession has recognized the necessity of innovative training with a bold entrepreneurial spirit. Hillenbrand moved acceptance of the proposal, seconded by Koretsky. Motion carried.

2. FYE 2200 Direct Encounter with Kalamazoo – Christopher Tremblay and Adrienne Fraaza  
Tremblay and Fraaza addressed the council. Research indicates that second-year students need additional resources and attention to encourage their persistence at the University. This new model of a Second Year seminar course would allow both new and current students to experience in-depth integration into the Kalamazoo community. This unique course will focus on four quadrants of experiential learning: exploring, integrating, engaging, and transferring skills. Immersing students in the city of Kalamazoo will expose them to a diverse and rich arts/culture, introduce them to volunteer, intern, and employment opportunities, develop an awareness of civic responsibility, and ultimately feel more connected to both WMU and Kalamazoo. Ultimately, an increased feeling of engagement will contribute to retention. Hillenbrand moved acceptance of the proposal to add FYE 2200 as a new, two-credit hour course, seconded by Whitehurst. Motion failed.

**Information / Discussion / Action Items**

1. Discussion of Revised MOA-15/10 Graduate and Undergraduate Catalog Revision for 5000-Level Courses  
At the request of the Faculty Senate Executive Board, the USC/GSC sub-committee on 5000-level courses met one more time in the attempt to establish language agreeable to both councils about the nature and purpose of 5000-level courses. The sub-committee proposes that 5000-level courses be considered graduate level courses that are open to advanced undergraduates (those with a junior status and a 3.0 GPA or above), or with the approval of the instructor. Baldner proposed we submit a Memorandum Of Action reflecting this language, seconded by Code. Motion carried.
2. Discussion of a Student Success Oversight Committee Tabled.
3. Undergraduate Certificate Programs – Lisa Coons  
Last year, this council proposed an “Undergraduate Certificate Program” for the University, and this proposal was adopted by the Faculty Senate. Certain provisions of this program do not work well for the School of Music, and so David Code requests that the council make two changes to the existing policy.

The first change would be to allow certificate programs with more than the 24-hour maximum in the policy approved last year, and the second would be to allow for transfer credits (up to half of the minimum required for the certificate) to be counted towards certificate programs. Tremblay moved approval of this motion, seconded by Koretsky. Motion carried, with slight modification to existing language.

4. Subcommittee Report on Charge #1, Faculty Involvement in Recruitment – Christopher Tremblay  
Tremblay addressed the council. There is a council charge regarding faculty involvement in faculty recruitment, and a sub-committee of this council was established to look at this. The sub-committee recommended awards recognizing faculty who are engaged in efforts to recruit students to Western. The sub-committee will write up an official report of their recommendations to submit to this council.
5. Council charges  
Tabled.
6. Election of council officers for 2016-17 (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary)  
Anderson was elected as vice chair and Hillenbrand as secretary.
7. Election of members of the Committee to Oversee General Education  
Tabled.

#### **Other**

The council will not meet in June, but will attempt to finish on-going business via email.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Baldner