

Unit Communication Notes
Faculty Senate Meeting
May 11, 2017

Thanks to Director Sharon Carlson for her contribution to these notes

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

-Council/Committee Update:

The **Graduate Studies Council** has continued to review graduate curriculum revisions, and recently completed a survey of all graduate faculty and professional staff to gather input on policies and procedures that might be improved to better support graduate student success.

The **International Education Council** has been working on a survey of faculty international research engagement and is planning for the creation of a global learning community through the Office of Faculty Development in the fall.

The **Committee to Oversee General Education** is completing its review of the baccalaureate writing, or Proficiency 2, courses to ensure these courses meet the standards as outlined in the current WMU General Education Policy.

The **Libraries Committee** discussed the proposal to renovate Waldo Library in association with a new facility for Student Services.

The **Research Day Committee** conducted the annual Research and Creative Works Day a few weeks ago where 48 graduate students presented their research and creative activities. Thanks to the Graduate Student Association, \$4,000 in prizes were awarded to 17 graduate students.

The **Intellectual Skills Program Advisory Committee** of the Undergraduate Studies Council has developed a new rubric based on the new SAT and related literature for placement into or out of the Intellectual Skills courses in reading, writing, and math. Since Michigan is now an SAT state not an ACT state, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of students presenting SAT scores for admission and placement.

The **Committee on University Strategic Planning** has actively participated in the identification of risks and opportunities related to the Gold Standard 2020 priority strategies and is helping facilitate faculty response to related recommendations.

-2017 Summary of Faculty Senate activities: The Senate councils and committees, comprised of over 400 voluntary faculty, administrators, students, and staff have, over the last year, developed 11 Memoranda of Action, approved eight, with seven being approved by the administration. Those include:

- MOA-16/08: Revised High School Dual Enrollees Policy
- MOA-16/10: Revised Graduate Catalog Admission Requirements to Specialist Programs
- MOA-16/12: Acceptance of the Dual Use of Research Concern Policy
- MOA-16/13: Revised Undergraduate Catalog Non-degree Certificate Programs
- MOA-17/01: Naming of the Revised General Education Curriculum
- MOA-17/02: Revision of Provisional Acceptance Policy
- MOA-17/03: Creation of the Block Transfer of Military Credit Policy

-The Faculty Senate presented an Honorary Resolution to President Dunn.

President Dunn Remarks

-Vice President for Research - The search committee has been seated with Dean Carla Koretsky serving as Chair. Parker Executive Search has been selected to facilitate the search. The committee has met once. All of this has been done in consultation with President Designate Montgomery.

-Budget Update – There is much still unknown; the Governor, Senate and House have all drafted budgets and will need to confer. WMU has run scenarios on the three budget models but there are many variables such as the Enrollment Final Allocation from the State Tuition Restraint. WMU is projecting a deficit of \$5-6 million. While this may not sound like good news, some of our peer institutions have deficits ranging from \$20-30 million. Other unknowns include the MPERS retirement funding. WMU is engaged in negotiations with the WMU AAUP and any salary increases are unknown.

-International Enrollment – The summer orientation held steady. The largest orientation is in the fall. Colleges and universities in Canada and Australia are benefitting greatly from the recent political actions taken by the U.S. federal government. WMU continues to stay engaged with international students.

-Non-resident Enrollment – The new nonresident tuition rate for newly enrolled degree-seeking undergraduate students beginning Summer I 2017 (1.25%) has been successful and at this point; there are at least 500 new enrollments attributed to this new policy.

-Agreement with Aquinas College – The agreement is focused on Engineering students and allows students to attend Aquinas College and receive a two-year associate degree before finishing an Engineering degree at WMU.

-Career Award Recipients – A third NSF Career Award recipient has been awarded this year; **Elena Litvinova** in Physics joins Fahad Saeed (Engineering) and Wendy Scott Beane (Biological Sciences) as WMU honorees. We have not had a Career Award recipient since 2007 and this year we have had three faculty recognized with this prestigious award.

-Medieval Congress – The 52nd International Congress is meeting on WMU's campus this week. There are 3,000 participants representing 34 nations and 47 U.S. states. Kudos to Jana Schulman and staff for organizing this internationally recognized event.

-Commencement – Thank you for participating in commencement. Antonio Flores, President and CEO of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters Honoris Causa degree at the College of Arts and Sciences commencement.

-Encore Magazine – The last issue was created by WMU students working under the direction of Professor Sue Ellen Christian.

-Austism Spectrum Disorders – WMU ranked 9 in the top 20 institutions in the country as an institution of higher education welcoming autistic students.

A Question for President Dunn:

What are you retiring to? Dunn has some specific duties from the Board of Trustees which include fundraising, working with the international community, and writing some of the history of his tenure on campus. He will also work with the incoming president as needed during the transition. He is committed to being helpful without interfering.

Provost Dr. Timothy Greene Remarks

- Associate Provost for Haenicke Institute for Global Education Search Update – There have been two candidates on campus, and there will be two more next week.

- Haworth College of Business Dean Search Update – The committee looked at some additional candidates and the search firm has been charged with finding additional candidates. Airport interviews will take place in mid to late September and on-campus interviews will occur in October. The goal is to have somebody in place January 1, 2018.

- Enrollment – WMU has more graduate students from Iraq than any other institution in the U.S. Fall enrollment for returning students is down 4.5% from this time last year. Online enrollments continue to grow as do the number of students who have just finished high school.

- Orientation– Orientation starts June 1 and there are 12 sessions planned. New Bronco families are here for roughly two days. Faculty are encouraged to attend the parent mixers as these are great opportunities to interact with families.

- Committee to Examine Hearing/Visually Impaired Accessibility – Provost Greene met with Chairs and Dr. Martha Warfield to move forward on solving problems related to effectively providing resources for these students. Additional services and training will need to be provided to instructors and the Provost has agreed to fund a faculty Fellow (.25 FTE) position to spearhead the development of related educational material. WMU will also increase site licenses for a software program (JAWS Screenreader) for visually impaired students. The Extended University Programs has recognized the need for a specialist trained in assistive technologies and a search to fill that position will be forthcoming.

ACTION ITEM

President Ayers reviewed the procedure and process for voting; the April Faculty Senate meeting included a motion and support to approve **Memorandum of Action-17/05: Revision of General Education Design**. The second reading tonight required action on that motion.

Discussion Topics included the following:

Q/C: Level 1 critical thinking includes writing, thinking, and information literacy. It is very open and not specific. Was this intentional? Yes.

Q/C: A concern was raised that the language in the MOA is too confining. It should include something about implementation and a feasibility study to understand its affects. The Faculty Senate does not implement; we can make recommendations, but implementation is the responsibility of the Administration. The *Ad Hoc* General Education Logistics Committee has been and will continue working on implementation details. The Faculty Senate has recommended the use of faculty working groups to identify the student learning outcomes for the 12 course categories in Essential Studies curriculum. Once these recommendations are finalized in the next year or so, it will be the purview of the Administration to allocate resources for the revised curriculum.

Q/C: Is there a place for priorities? Faculty and Administration will work with limited resources. If something is unfeasible, it will not be pursued. On page 3 of MOA-17/05, under the Design Principles section, the five topics listed under fifth bullet identify priorities as identified through campus engagement.

Q/C: Thank you to the committee that put this together. A change in the general education model is overdue and necessary for WMU to prosper. The success of this relies on the faculty and administration to resource what happens next.

Q/C: Would the Faculty Senate be willing to entertain an amendment forwarding this to a logistics committee?
We do not have the authority to force the administration to carry out this recommendation. The intent of going ahead is already in place (*Ad Hoc* General Education Logistics Committee). If it will be helpful to have regular reports, these will be provided regularly at Faculty Senate meetings, just as was provided by the *Ad Hoc* General Education Design Committee throughout the 2016-17 AY.

Q/C: A suggestion was made that Level I include critical thinking in Business and STEM areas.

Q/C: Will the design team comment on limiting critical thinking to the arts and humanities? There are two science courses and a quantitative literacy requirement. We are trying to achieve some balance in the program. We are aware that critical thinking occurs in every discipline and in every course. The AAC&U rubrics will help initiate ways to assess critical thinking in every discipline.

Q/C: A concern was raised about writing and Level I.

-A motion was made to add a course category of “historical perspectives” in Level 1 NOT APPROVED

Comments/Questions Concerning Amendment to Add “Historical Perspectives” to Level I

Q/C: This design has a fundamental gap without historical perspectives which would include courses taught out of a number of different departments not exclusive to the History Department. There are numerous areas where historical perspectives may be added. Every section has some reference to the past.

Q/C: There was concern about the amendment and what happened if another bullet point was added. What happens when a piece is added to a model which has already been constructed? The historical perspective came up early in the discussion. Historical perspective may not be on the front cover but it is well covered. This could potentially add three credit hours to the general education requirements. The design committee was instructed to maintain the same number of credit hours as the current general education curriculum. The new design does not limit the number of courses which may be taken from one department. Smaller groups will discuss outcomes and some of these issues will be resolved.

Q/C: It was suggested that perhaps Level I should be expanded to “historical thinking and critical thinking in the arts and humanities” to resolve this.

-Motion to approve **Memorandum of Action-17/05: Revision of General Education Design** APPROVED

-Motion to waive the 30-day period prior to submitting MOA-17/05 for Administration’s approval. APPROVED

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

Recognition of the 2016-17 Senators

- Kent Baldner, Philosophy
- Howard Dooley, History
- Nicole Eckerson, Family and Consumer Sciences
- Pavel Ikononov, Engineering Design, Manufacturing, and Management Systems
- Glen Langworthy, Aviation
- Whitney Moncrief, Dance
- Alan Rea, Business Information Systems
- Jack Ruhl, Accountancy
- C. Richard Spates, Psychology
- Udaya Wagle, Public Affairs and Administration

Adjournment of 2016-17 Faculty Senate occurred at 6:53 p.m.

2017-18 Faculty Senate

- Introductions and Welcome of the 2017-18 Senators – President Ayers welcomed returning and introduced new Faculty Senators:

Re-elected Senators:

- Osama Abudayyeh, Civil and Construction Engineering
- Sisay Asefa, Economics
- Stephanie Burns, Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology
- Sharon Carlson, Libraries
- Tarun Gupta, Industrial and Entrepreneurial Engineering and Engineering Management
- Dean Johnson, Electrical and Computer Engineering
- C.R. Krishna-Swamy, Finance and Commercial Law
- Scott Slawinski, English
- Andre Venter, Chemistry
- Brian Young, Chemical and Paper Engineering

New Senators:

- Jose Brandao, History
- Anthony DeFulio, Psychology
- Janette Gabel-Goes, Business Information Systems
- Sarah Hill, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability
- Willem Homan, Aviation
- Beth Jarl, Family and Consumer Sciences
- Mitchel Keil, Engineering Design, Manufacturing, and Management Systems
- Karen Kness, Music
- Matthew Mingus, Public Affairs and Administration
- Nina Nelson, Dance
- David Paul, Philosophy
- Jagjit Saini, Accountancy

ACTION ITEM

- Election of Council Members – Council members running unopposed were approved by acclamation. Paper ballots were distributed for the remainder of Council members.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Professional Activity Report Project – Paul Vellom, Teaching, Learning, and Educational Studies, presented information on the project to develop an online process. Vendors were narrowed down to 5 and 3 presented on campus. Two vendors were asked to provide “sandboxes” in order to test the products. DATA180 was selected as the preferred interface. Faculty will fill information in once and update yearly or as roles change. Dropdowns are a strong feature of this program. An Implementation Committee has been formed with representation from each college and various administrative and technical units involved. The Implementation Committee will work over the summer to facilitate implementation in the fall. Adhering to the WMU AAUP Contract has been important. Chairs and deans will have access for reporting functions. Eventually, portions of the product which provide reporting useful to Higher Learning Commission accreditation will be implemented.

Questions/Comments

Q/C: Will part-time instructors use this system at any point, and if so, may a part-time instructor be added to the team?

We are designing it for the part-time instructors for the competency review process which will start next year. It would be good to have a part-time instructor on the team.

Q/C: What about departments with particular accreditation requirements? The templates will be designed by the company but at WMU's request. Work through your Dean's office so as not to have 50 different versions. The vendor has worked with many accrediting bodies and appropriate templates may already exist.

- Ad Hoc General Education Logistics Committee Update – Elliott thanked the Senators for their vote of confidence. The Logistics Committee has been meeting and received reports from the various working groups (writing, transfer/contemporary students, and accreditation). The implementation will not happen all at once. The Logistics Committee will meet over the summer and develop a timeline. The Committee is planning to begin its monthly presentations at the first Faculty Senate meeting in the fall. Communication with those not in attendance, high schools, and community colleges will need to occur. Please contact Elliott with any concerns or unanswered questions. We will concentrate on getting it done right rather than getting it done fast. There already are and will be additional faculty development courses to help instructors adapt courses to address and meet the learning outcomes.

Professional and Academic Concerns

Several faculty from the Bronson School of Nursing learned about the impending discontinuation of RefWorks which is scheduled to occur on June 30. While they understand the decision, more communication from the University Libraries would have been helpful.

A Senator expressed concerns about the grade appeal process.

A Senator expressed concerns about Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Wellness visit. This is an AAUP contractual issue. Vice President Jan Van Der Kley agreed to talk to the Senator after the meeting.

The next Senate meeting is in October. 2017-18 dates will be set over the summer.