

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL
Tuesday, 10 October 2017, 3 p.m.
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

Members present: Ackerson, Anderson, Baas (for Bischof), Baldner, Birnbaum, Carlson, Curran, Drummer (Academic Advising Liaison), Ealy, Ferrin, Hack (Western Student Association), Taylor Hall (for Brown, WSA), Hillenbrand, Kritzman, Reinhold (for Interim Provost Stapleton), Sachs, Shao
Absent without substitution: Coons, Martini (Advisory Member)
Guests: Marilyn Duke, Center for Academic Success Programs; Susan Stapleton, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Procedural / Informational Items

Call to Order

Council Vice Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Anderson welcomed Samantha Hack to the council as one of the representatives from the Western Student Association.

Acceptance of Agenda

Anderson requested that Chair Ferrin's comments be moved to later in the agenda, due to his arrival after teaching class. Baas moved to accept the amended agenda, seconded by Ackerson. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Baldner moved to approve the minutes of 12 September 2017 as written, seconded by Baas. Motion carried.

Chair's Comments – Bruce Ferrin

At the September meeting, Ferrin was tasked to communicate with the Faculty Senate Executive Board regarding USC Charge 3. Ferrin reported that he made attempts to contact the Executive Board, with no response to date. Carlson stated that she will bring Ferrin's request to the Executive Board.

Fall Semester 2017 Meeting Start Time

Due to his teaching schedule, Ferrin is not able to arrive at USC meetings until 3:30 p.m. this semester; the earliest he can meet. It was decided that the start time of the November and December meetings will be based on the length of the agenda, with a start time of either 3 or 3:30 p.m. and end time of 5 p.m. The start time will be announced by Ferrin the week before the November and December meetings.

Informational/Discussion/Action Items

*Visit with Susan Stapleton, Interim Provost and Vice President
for Academic Affairs*

Interim Provost Stapleton visited the council to listen to members' comments and questions about academic affairs. She expressed her appreciation of the work of Faculty Senate councils and shared her excitement about this time of transition for the University. Her agenda of projects for the University include retention, six-year graduation rates, academic excellence, faculty working "across silos", and working toward recognition of WMU as one of the "Big Three" universities in the state. Stapleton expressed the need to coordinate retention efforts strategically, primarily through faculty engagement with students. At the college level, there will be funding for initiatives for improving student success services. New curriculum design will be happening as part of the WMU Essential Studies. Students will be encouraged to design "signature" and co-curricular paths to graduation. Stapleton announced a proposed "signature" program for faculty, to stimulate faculty involvement in activities such as programming in residence halls, diversity/equity training and participation in learning communities. She stated a need for better articulation of paths to WMU for community college students.

Stapleton closed by again expressing appreciation to council members and requested ideas, questions and comments. One question about the signature program for faculty/staff came from the council. Stapleton said that faculty would be encouraged to participate in activities that are already happening on campus; the goal is to increase faculty involvement. Faculty could be recognized/celebrated as a "champion", depending on level of involvement.

Election of Representatives to the Committee to Oversee General Education

Ferrin presented Sarah Hill as the nominee from the College of Arts and Sciences. Hill is an associate professor in Environmental Studies. Sachs moved to nominate Sarah Hill to COGE; Baldner seconded. Motion passed. Ferrin presented Paul Engelmann as the nominee from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Engelmann is a full professor. Anderson moved to nominate Engelmann to COGE; seconded by Hill. Motion passed.

Other

Reinhold will arrange to have Shawn Tenney, program manager of service learning, attend the November council meeting, if deemed appropriate, to begin addressing Charge 3 ("*In consultation with the Office of Service Learning, develop a cyclical review process to ensure courses meet this designation.*")

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Ealy, seconded by Birnbaum. Motion carried.
The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn Hillenbrand