

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

CAMPUS PLANNING AND FINANCE COUNCIL
Minutes of 15 October 2019 at 3 p.m.
Bernhard Center, Faculty Lounge

Members present: Todd Barkman, David Dakin, Betty Dennis, Keith Hearit, Lynne Heasley, Claire Herhold (Graduate Student Association), John Jellies, Valerian Kwigizile, Geoffrey Lindenberg, James Penner, Colleen Scarff, Patricia Vander Meer, Jan Van Der Kley, Udaya Wagle, Xiuye Xie
Members absent: Cheryl Bruey, David Hoskins (Western Student Association)
Advisory members absent: Tony Proudfoot, Chris Cheatham
Guests: Mark Frever, Director of Landscape Services; Scott Merlo, Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police

Procedural Items

Welcome and Introductions

Faculty Senate Executive Board representative John Jellies called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. and welcomed guests and council members.

Acceptance of Agenda

A motion was made by Jellies to accept the agenda as presented, supported by Hearit. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes of 17 September 2019

A motion was made by Jellies to approve the minutes of 17 September 2019 with corrections of two names, supported by Barkman. Motion carried.

Faculty Senate Executive Board Representative Remarks – Jellies

Jellies announced that Valerian Kwigizile has agreed to serve as the council chair for 2019-20, if elected.

Action Item

Election of Council Chair – Jellies

A motion was made by Jellies to elect Valerian Kwigizile by unanimous ballot as chair of the council, supported by Barkman. Motion carried.

Jellies turned the meeting over to Kwigizile.

Discussion/Information Items

Campus Safety – Merlo

Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police Scott Merlo gave an update on the annual security report for 2018, which was posted to the website. Crime statistics are decreasing due to engagement with students and education of students, staff, and faculty. There have been two K-9's added this year, who are very approachable and used for bomb detection and patrol. There are multiple ways to alert students, staff and faculty through alerts and advisory texts for informational needs. This helps for on- and off-campus safety communications. There are more

than 50,000 users signed up for alerts and advisories. Everyone who signed up for alerts and advisories is opted in, but can choose to opt out. The system for emergencies called "alertus" pushes out emergency communications to VoIP phones, digital signs and computers. All WMU officers are trained in dealing with client's crisis intervention stemming from mental health issues to de-escalation of all situations. Please contact 7-5555 or 269-488-8911 to reach Campus Safety for emergency or non-emergency issues. For facility issues, "Bronco Fix it" may be used at any time of the day or night. Merlo reminded everyone that police escorts are still offered for walking students, staff, and faculty at night to their destination. Additionally, seven days a week, a ride can be provided. Help is also provided with off-campus students living in apartments by going door to door and letting them know how to take precautions during closures and educating students by being more visible in the communities.

Landscaping Master Plan – Frever

Director of Landscape Services Mark Frever gave an update on the 1200 acres of WMU landscaped property under his department's management. A "Master Landscape Plan" is being developed that will work with GIS mapping technology. Multiple neighborhoods are managed with 50 employees, which led to consideration of changing to "campus core" and "campus edge" concepts. Campus core is landscaping around the building and campus edge is when nature is allowed to grow into the area. Landscaping is being kept to native plants, shrubs and trees. The master plan is to provide better access in the outdoor spaces for pedestrian and integrated transportation. Pathways are being redistributed and some are being allowed to return to a more natural setting. Accessibility is addressed at all points of discussion. The master plan includes reduced mowing and return to natural setting by allowing native plants and flowers to return. Mention was made of "Spotted Lanternfly" and there will continue to be monitoring of landscape and property. Diversity in the woodlands and greenspaces should continue to be promoted. The PowerPoint presentation shown is available here:

<https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u301/2014/LS%20MasterPlanNEW.pdf>

Other

A motion was made by Jellies to establish the Agenda Subcommittee composed of Valerian Kwigizile (council chair), Cheryl Bruey (council vice chair), Todd Barkman (immediate past council chair), and Jan Van Der Kley (vice president for business and finance, or designee). The motion was supported by Wagle, and the motion carried.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Jellies and supported by Barkman at 4:19 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Heilmann, Recording Secretary