

WMU Emeriti Council

Minutes

March 12, 2024

2:00 pm Heinig Emeriti Lounge

Present: Robert Dlouhy, Barbara Hemphill, Peter Krawutschke, Mary Lagerwey, Darryl Salisbury

Mary Lagerwey called the meeting to order at 2:00.

Housekeeping

- Mary Lagerwey agreed to take minutes for this meeting.
- The agenda for the March 2024 meeting was approved
- Notes from the January meeting were approved

Updates

- Updating the Emeriti webpage
 - Mary has been working with the marketing section of the Office of the Provost to update the information on areas such as the emeriti newsletters, presentations, EC leadership. Members of the EC are asked to check on the site regularly and make note of information that needs to be updated.
- Faculty Senate
 - The Faculty Senate notified Mary that one of the emeriti representatives to the Senate has not attended any meetings. She will be notified that if she wishes to continue as a representative, she needs to notify the EC and attend meetings. Otherwise, the position will be opened for a new emeriti representative.
- OLLI
 - Barbara Hemphill attended the annual OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute of WMU) Board meeting in November 2023. She and Toni Woolfork-Barnes, Director of OLLI discussed ways in which the Emeriti Council and OLLI might assist each other in disseminating information about learning opportunities. This could include announcements in OLLI's monthly newsletter and on their website about upcoming Wednesday II events. A discussion followed, during which it was suggested that the EC contact Amy Brimmer from HR to explore the possibility of setting up a facebook account for the EC.
- Support from the Office of the Provost
 - Mary Lagerwey reported that she has been in brief email correspondence with the Office of the Provost to explore administrative support for the EC. The Office of the Provost has written that they will be unable to support the EC at the levels done in the past.

Discussion items:

- Peter Krawutschke had a couple of suggestions to improve the visibility and support for the Emeriti

- Scheduling a meeting for the Emeriti Council with President Montgomery to review the functions of the Council and its need for support
- A presentation to the Faculty Senate or its Executive Board on the functions of the Council and its collaboration with the Senate. A separate presentation to the entire Senate in fall 2024 also could include opportunities for involvement following retirement.

Wednesday II events

- Change in Schedule
 - Denise Keele, Executive Director of Michigan Climate Action Network, canceled her presentation scheduled for March as she was called upon to testify to the Michigan legislature that day. She is willing to reschedule.
- Other
 - April: Jeffrey Angles, Professor, Japanese Literature and Translation, will present on Godzilla on April 10. His presentation will be at 1:30 instead of 2:00.
 - Jon Baker, Gerontology, has indicated interest and is a possible presenter for the 2024-2025 academic year
 - Mary is negotiating with Miranda Pear from the Area Agency on Aging for a May presentation on accessing and coordinating Medicare benefits

Spring Emeriti Newsletter

EC members are asked to bring news items and any emeriti updates to the April EC meeting, so the Spring newsletter can be sent out in May 2024.

Discussion items

- WARF has invited us to share a meeting with them. Mary will follow up with WARF leadership.
- Fund raising for books and assistance for LHC students' Phi Beta Phi membership has been requested. The EC agreed to send out a note to the emeriti inviting their contributions.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm. The next meeting of the Emeriti Council is scheduled for April 9, 2024, at 2:00, in the Emeriti Lounge in Walwood Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Mary D. Lagerwey

Minutes

May 7, 2024

2:00 Heinig Emeriti Lounge

Present: Robert Dlouhy, Barbara Hemphill, Peter Krawutschke, Mary Lagerwey, Darryl Salisbury

Mary Lagerwey called the meeting to order at 2:00.

Housekeeping

- Mary Lagerwey agreed to take minutes for this meeting.
- The agenda for the May 2024 meeting was approved
- Notes from the April 2024 meeting were approved

Updates

- Faculty Senate
 - One of the emeriti representatives to the Faculty Senate has not replied to a written request from Mary that she notify the EC if she wishes to continue as a representative, she needs to notify the EC and attend meetings. As of today, she has not attended any Faculty Senate meetings or participated in other Faculty Senate activities. John Jellies, Professor Emeritus Biology and past president of the Faculty Senate, has asked to be an emeriti representative to the Faculty Senate. The EC unanimously approved his request.
 - Due to the break between Spring and Summer I sessions, the Faculty Senate has scheduled its May meeting for May 9 instead of the first Thursday in May. Mary Lagerwey will report on the May 2024 Faculty Senate meeting at the September EC meeting.
 - OLLI: Barbara reported that OLLI is looking for ways to collaborate with the Emeriti Council in publicity and support for events.
- Emeriti stationary
 - Darryl has been working on developing an updated letterhead and will follow up with MARCOM for formatting options.
 - Mary reported that there is some letterhead available from several years ago, with envelopes, in the Heinig Emeriti Lounge.
 - Peter Krawutschke suggested that business cards and thank you note paper be prepared for members of the EC. Thank you cards would be appropriate for those who have made presentations or scholarship contributions. There was some discussion about the EC not having access to doner information.
- WARF
 - Mary Lagerwey reported that on communications with WARF. They are working to establish their own bank account

Wednesday II events

- Review
 - April event: Jeffrey Angles, Professor, Japanese Literature and Translation. There was a positive reception.
- May
 - Area Agency on Aging regarding Medicare benefits, Miranda Pearson is planned for May 8.
- Future events
 - Hopefully, Stan Robin will agree to offer his annual “Monologues” presentation in September

Discussion items

- Spring Emeriti Newsletter. Mary has been working on the spring newsletter and encouraged others to add information they have, including:
 - WMU updates from Faculty Senate
 - Other WMU, college, and departmental updates
 - Bio information on emeriti
 - Possible WMU organizations through which the Emeriti Council could coordinate its work and outreach were discussed. Two that have been explored but do not have any commitments at this time are
 - Development Office – they may be interested in co-sponsoring an event but are apparently not able to incorporate the emeriti into their structure.

Possible restructuring:

- Discussion about working with Faculty Senate to have administrative support from the Faculty Senate. Mary will look into the history of the Emeriti Council to determine whether the Board of Trustees had approved the establishment of the Emeriti Council in the 1970s and would thus need to be consulted or notified on restructuring.
- Suggestions to improve the visibility and support for the Emeriti
 - Scheduling a meeting for the Emeriti Council with President Montgomery to review the functions of the Council and its need for support
 - A presentation to the Faculty Senate or its Executive Board on the functions of the Council and its collaboration with the Senate. A separate presentation to the entire Senate in fall 2024 also could include opportunities for involvement following retirement.
- Peter Krawutschke will follow up with the Association for Management Students to see whether there is a possibility for student(s) to have a practice experience with the EC to assist and to learn about university organizations and shared governance..

Meeting schedule:

The Emeriti Council will meet on the second Tuesday of the month during the academic year, except for when a Wednesday II presentation is on the 8th of the month. In those cases, it will meet on the 7th of the month so it can discuss the upcoming presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm. The next meeting of the Emeriti Council is scheduled for Tuesday September 10, 2024, at 2:00, in the Heinig Emeriti Lounge in Walwood Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Lagerwey

Minutes

September 10 ,2024

2:00 Heinig Emeriti Lounge

Present: Robert Dlouhy, Barbara Hemphill, Peter Krawutschke, Mary Lagerwey, Stan Robin
Mary Lagerwey called the meeting to order at 2:00.

Guest: Toni Woolford-Barnes, Director of OLLI

Housekeeping

Mary Lagerwey introduced a new member of the Emeriti Council, Stan Robin, Professor Emeritus of Sociology.

- Mary Lagerwey agreed to take minutes for this meeting.
- The agenda for the September 2024 meeting was approved.
- Minutes from the May 2024 meeting were approved, with a correction stating that Stan Robin would be giving a performance, not a presentation.

Updates

- Faculty Senate
 - The Faculty Senate met on May 9, 2024. New members of the Senate were introduced, including the new President, Dr. Amy Naugel.
 - John Jellies, a new emeriti representative to the Faculty Senate, met with Mary Lagerwey to review the Senate Constitution and Bylaws. They are going through their periodical review, and it is proposed that the following language be included in the Constitution and Bylaws.

Constitution

- Article IV: Membership of the senate

- Sec. 1. The Senate shall consist of ex officio, appointed, and elected members as follows:
 - · Ex officio: the president of the University, the provost, the chair of each Senate council and all past presidents of the Faculty Senate. For purposes of determining a quorum for any meeting of the Senate, the absence or presence of past presidents of the Senate shall not be counted.
 - · Appointed: four of the officers of the administration, appointed by the president of the University for a term of one year each, in accordance with the provisions of the bylaws. Appointed members of the Senate need not hold academic rank.
 - · Elected:
 - 1. Representatives-at-large: nine representatives-at-large elected by the eligible voters of the faculty for a term of three years each, in accordance with the provisions of the bylaws.
 - 2. Departmental representatives: representatives elected for three-year terms by and from faculty members of each University department, in accordance with the provisions of the bylaws. Substitutes for departmental representatives may be provided for in the bylaws.
 - 3. The president and vice president and other officers of the Senate.
 - 4. Former faculty members who have retired as emeriti of WMU, selected by the Emeriti Council in accordance with the provisions of the bylaws (Article I, Sec. 7). Three emeriti will serve staggered three-year terms, with full membership and voting privileges in the Senate. Membership of the Emeriti Council shall be elected by the emeriti at large.

Bylaws

- Article VII: Committees
 - Sec. 1. In addition to those committees named in Article VII, Part 2, Sec. 2, of the constitution, the following shall be standing committees of the Senate: Professional Concerns, Centers and Institutes, Emeriti and WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory.
 - Sec. 2. The Senate Executive Board shall nominate members and chairpersons for all standing committees and any ad hoc or special committees except for the Emeriti Committee, which is established according to Article IV, section 1. bullet 4 of the Constitution. The final determination and official appointment of committee memberships (except for the Emeriti Committee) shall be made by the Senate Executive Board.
 - Sec. 3. A vacancy on a standing committee shall be filled by the Senate Executive Board when notified of such vacancy by the chairperson of the standing committee.
 - Sec. 4. All voting members of standing committees of the Faculty Senate shall have the right to propose motions and vote in their respective committees.

Wednesday II events

- Stan Robin is scheduled to offer his annual “Monologues” performance tomorrow, September 11, in the Heinig Emeriti lounge.

- At this point, no additional presentations have been scheduled. Suggestions discussed include theatre careers, Kercher Center research that benefits the community, a readers' theatre, and climate change. EC members are encouraged to contact potential presenters.
- Stan Robin noted that he has not been getting group emeriti email but does receive email messages sent directly. The EC discussed possible causes, and Lagerwey will follow up with the staff person who manages the emeriti email list to make sure his address is included in the list. She also reminded EC members that she sends out paper copies of Wednesday II announcements and the newsletter to emeriti who do not use email and encouraged EC members to notify her of any additional emeriti who would appreciate a paper copy.

Other possible events

EC members discussed the importance of emeriti gatherings and the loss of some previous events. These include the annual 25-year club celebration, retirement celebration, and a fall breakfast. Some of the loss has been due to the change placing the EC under the Office of the Provost instead of the President's Office, and no individual being specifically assigned to support the EC. It was agreed that the EC would explore options for a holiday gathering in December. Mary had talked with the CHHS representative from the Development Office about the possibility of that office assisting with planning and managing such an event. Stan noted that the development office should be expected to have an interest in emeriti as they can provide significant funding through wills and other donations. He also suggested a fund raiser with this office, perhaps in conjunction with a re-instituted retirement dinner.

The following factors would need to be addressed for a social gathering:

- Venue – possibly the Fetzer Center or the Student Center
- Food
- Speaker
- Music

Peter suggested working more closely with the Faculty Senate if they approved the changes to their constitution and bylaws, making the EC a more direct part of the Senate structure. He also noted the importance of publicity if such a change is made.

Mary has reviewed WMU Board of Trustees' minutes and has not been able to find any references to the Board approving the establishment of the Emeriti Council or its support.

There was a general discussion about how to encourage the WMU administration to recognize the value of the emeriti to the University.

Other Discussion items

- Fall Emeriti Newsletter.
 - WMU updates from Faculty Senate
 - Other WMU, college, and departmental updates
 - Bio information on emeriti, including the three emeriti representatives to the Faculty Senate

- Suggestions to improve the visibility and support for the Emeriti
 - Scheduling a meeting for the Emeriti Council with President Montgomery to review the functions of the Council and its need for support
 - A presentation to the Faculty Senate or its Executive Board on the functions of the Council and its collaboration with the Senate. A separate presentation to the entire Senate could include opportunities for involvement following retirement.
- Peter Krawutschke will follow up with the Association for Management Students to see whether there is a possibility for student(s) to have a practice experience with the EC to assist and to learn about university organizations and shared governance.

Guest,

Toni Woolford-Barnes joined the EC to discuss options for collaboration between OLLI and the EC. She noted that in the past, new retirees were given a coupon for one free OLLI class, and the important ways retirees stay involved with the University. This includes working with faculty and students in research and teaching an OLLI class.

It was agreed that holding 1-2 events each academic year, starting spring semester 2025.

Dr. Woolford-Barnes will attend the October EC meeting for a more in-depth discussion.

Meeting schedule:

The Emeriti Council will meet the second Tuesday of the month during the academic year, except for when a Wednesday II presentation is on the 8th of the month. In those cases, it will meet on the 7th of the month so it can discuss the upcoming presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm. The next meeting of the Emeriti Council is scheduled for Tuesday October 8, 2024, at 2:00, in the Heinig Emeriti Lounge in Walwood Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Lagerwey

Minutes

October 8, 2024

2:00 Heinig Emeriti Lounge

Present: Sisay Asefa, Robert Dlouhy, Barbara Hemphill, Peter Krawutschke, Mary Lagerwey, Stan Robin, Darryl Salisbury

Mary Lagerwey called the meeting to order at 2:00.

Guest: Toni Woolfork-Barnes, Director of OLLI

Housekeeping

- Mary Lagerwey agreed to take minutes for this meeting.
- The agenda for the October 2024 meeting was approved.
- Minutes from the September 2024 meeting were approved, with a correction in the spelling of Toni Woolfork-Barnes' name and stating that Stan Robin will be giving a performance, not a presentation.

Updates

Faculty Senate

- Faculty Senate October 3 meeting: Mary reported that no action was taken on the proposed changes to the Senate Constitution and Bylaws. Vice President C. Dennis Simpson gave the first reading of the Senate [Constitution](#) and [Bylaws](#) amendments that will be voted on at the Nov. 7 meeting.
- Mary agreed to forward to EC members copies of the Faculty Senate Snapshot, an unofficial summary of each senate meeting sent out before official minutes are approved.

Communication received regarding Faculty Recognition event: an emeritus professor contacted Mary Lagerwey to request re-institution of events such as the faculty dinner.

Wednesday II events

- Stan Robin performed his annual "Monologues" on September 11
- October 9: Joan Herrington: "WMU Theatre"
- November 13: Whitney DeCamp: "Discrimination in the Jury Selection Process"
- December 11: tentatively planned Emeriti Holiday gathering

Stan Robin and Mary Lagerwey will meet with staff at the Fetzer Center to determine possibilities for using the Center for the gathering and ask the WMU School of Music whether there might be vocalists who could perform for the event.

Stan also suggested that if possible, existing funds be used to cover the event, and there be no charges to attendees. There was a brief discussion about whether paying something would increase the perceived value of the event and of a commitment to attend. Peter suggested a \$10.00 charge/person. No final decision was made.

- January: possibly John Dunn
- February 12: Lisa de Chano: Climate Change
- March 12: Drew Arndt from West Hills: Exercise and Healthy Aging
- April 9: Christine Byrd-Jacobs: WMU Graduate studies
- May 14: Remzi Seker. Vice President for Research and Innovation. Research at WMU

Other Discussion items

Stan Robin moved, and Sisay Asefa seconded that a request be sent to the secretary of the WMU Board of Trustees requesting that the Chair of the Emeriti Council be included on the Presidential Select Search Committee for a new president of WMU. The motion was passed unanimously. Mary Lagerwey will follow up with the Secretary of the WMU Board of Trustees.

She also will inquire about any documentation in WMU BOT minutes about the establishment of the WMU Emeriti Council in the 1970s.

It also was agreed that the EC should wait for the new WMU president rather than requesting a meeting with the current president, who is retiring from WMU in 2025.

Stan suggested that in preparation for a meeting with a new WMU President, the Emeriti Council should revise its Statement of Purpose and prepare an introduction about the Emeriti Council, its current role, and potential value to the University.

- **Fall Emeriti Newsletter.**

- WMU updates from Faculty Senate
- Other WMU, college, and departmental updates
- Bio information on emeriti, including the three emeriti representatives to the Faculty Senate
- It was agreed that an obituary for Dean Honsberger, be included in the “In Memory of” section of the newsletter.

Updating information on web page

- Past presidents of the Emeriti Council
- Current list of Emeriti Council members
- upcoming events

Mary will follow up with Kristin Hrynczuk, a staff member who provides updates to the email list of emeriti.

Fall Emeriti Newsletter.

- Updates from Faculty Senate and College web sites
- Other WMU, college, and departmental updates
- OLLI information
- Bio information on emeriti, including the three emeriti representatives to the Faculty Senate
- Other upcoming events on campus
- It was agreed that an obituary for Dean Honsberger, be included in the fall Emeriti Newsletter

Darryl Salisbury moved, and Barbara Hemphill seconded a motion for Peter Krawutschke to be added to the Emeriti Council as an official voting member. He has been attending meetings in an unofficial capacity. The motion was approved unanimously, and Peter was welcomed to the Emeriti Council as an official member.

Collaboration with OLLI (Osher Life-Long Learning Institute) continued from October 2024 discussion.

Guest, Toni Woolfork-Barnes, Director of OLLI, led a discussion of options for collaboration. giving OLLI coupons (one per new emeriti) to new emeriti, as was done in the past at the retirement dinner. This dinner is no longer held. Peter suggested doing so through departments or colleges. Since membership in OLLI runs July 1-June 30, a shared event in summer may be best. The meeting was adjourned at 3:05

Meeting schedule:

The Emeriti Council will meet on the second Tuesday of the month during the academic year, except for when a Wednesday II presentation is on the 8th of the month. In those cases, it will meet on the 7th of the month so it can discuss the upcoming presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm. The next meeting of the Emeriti Council is scheduled for Tuesday December 10, 2024, at 2:00, in the Heinig Emeriti Lounge in Walwood Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Mary D. Lagerwey
