
**Professional Concerns Committee
Minutes of 17 January 2024**

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Professional Concerns Committee was called to order at 12:30 p.m. on 17 January 2024, via Webex conferencing by John Miller, chair.

Members Present: Jennifer Bott (substitute for Timothy Palmer), Kerry Hegele (substitute for Rena VanDerwall), John Jellies, Richard Meyer, John Miller

Members Absent: Michael Kahwaji (substitute for Elizabeth Terrel), Marian Tripplett

Advisory Members Present: Joe Erskine

Advisory Member Absent: Eric McConnell

Guest: Sarah Meiser, Office of Student Conduct

Ex Officio: Zeljka Vidic

Quorum

A quorum was present with six members in attendance, of the five needed to establish a quorum.

Agenda

[MOTION] It was moved by Jellies, seconded by Meyer, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Jellies, seconded by Meyer, to approve the 8 December 2023 minutes as presented. With two abstentions, the motion carried.

Reports of Officers

Chair Miller presented Memorandum of Action (MOA) 23/04 Establishment of a Review Cycle for Academic Conduct Policies to the Faculty Senate Executive Board. PCC will present at the February Faculty Senate meeting. Kahwaji has a schedule conflict this spring semester. PCC needs to select a new member to replace Kahwaji.

Ex Officio Vidic did not provide a report.

Reports of University Representatives

Erskine reported that the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities is completing work carried over from finals week. The number of cases is consistent with prior semesters. Recruitment for new academic integrity review panelists for multi-year terms is occurring during the spring semester.

McConnell did not provide a report due to his absence.

Unfinished Business

Meyer shared progress following a sub-committee meeting on the evaluation of the coupling of hardship withdrawal and academic integrity findings. Specifically, Meyer, in consultation with Miller and Kahwaji, met and reviewed the hardship withdrawal and academic integrity language for possible changes. On behalf of the group, Meyer recommended that the sentence “nor after a finding of responsibility” be removed from the hardship withdrawal policy that appears on the University Ombuds’ website.

[MOTION] It was moved by Jellies, seconded by Meyer seconded to remove “nor after a finding of responsibility” from the hardship withdrawal policy that appears on the University Ombuds’ website. The motion carried.

Ex Officio Vidic will share proposed change with the Faculty Senate Executive Board. The proposed change will be included in a later MOA, once the review of academic conduct policies is completed.

Partnership with WMUx and Elearning is progressing; no update.

New Business

PCC is charged with evaluating the student code as it relates to academic integrity, to change, delete, and updating the policy to reflect current issues and processes. Additionally, a review of peer institutions' policies and practices should inform this review. Language around technology (i.e., Artificial Intelligence (AI), specific devices) was discussed as a potential focus area. PCC members are asked to review the policy and be prepared to discuss specific language during an extended discussion at the February meeting.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Jellies, seconded by Meyer, to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Professional Concerns Committee will meet next on 21 February 2024 via Webex conference at 12:30 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Jennifer Bott on behalf of Timothy Palmer, Secretary

Minutes approved on 21 February 2024.