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**CAMPUS PLANNING AND FINANCE COUNCIL**

Minutes of 21 February 2023

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Campus Planning and Finance Council was called to order at 3:05 p.m. on 21 February 2023 via Webex video conferencing by Geoffrey Lindenberg, chair.

**Members in Attendance:** Cheryl Bruey, David Dakin, Betty Dennis, Bret Geier, LuMarie Guth, Keith Hearit, Lynne Heasley, Mohammad Daneshvar Kakhki, Valerian Kwigizile, Geoffrey Lindenberg, Melissa Powers, Colleen Scarff, Jan Van Der Kley

**Members Absent:** Todd Barkman, Abby Dawn Simmons

**Advisory Members Present:** Christopher Cheatham, Tony Proudfoot

**Ex Officio Member in Attendance:** Bret Wagner

**Quorum**

A quorum was present.

**Agenda**

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

**Minutes**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Wagner, seconded by Heasley, to approve the 17 January 2023 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**Reports of Officers**

Dennis provided a report of the Faculty Senate meeting for Chair Lindenberg.

Ex Officio Wagner did not provide a report.

**Reports of University Representatives**

Scarff reported that there is no change from the previous enrollment forecast due to delays from the Information Technology security event. Summer sessions are trending 15-20% lower in enrollment compared to last year. A marketing campaign for summer enrollment is being considered. Governor Whitmer has released her recommendation with a 4% increase to all public universities and a tuition restraint of 4.5%. In addition to state appropriation, Governor Whitmer is recommending \$100 million to the Michigan Achievement Scholarship and \$141.5 million in an infrastructure supplement. WMU would receive approximately \$9.5 million if approved. There is no date set for the legislative review currently. Van Der Kley reported that there is some increased optimism regarding the legislature appropriations because the legislature is in line with the governor. WMU is expecting that this will increase certainty in early budget projections. The budget does not support capital outlay. This will lead to a delay with the Knauss project. The University will take possession of the student center in late June 2023. Student Affairs will start at the end of July. WMU is within the project budget. Residential occupancy was particularly high this year.

Dakin reported on the parking structure of the town hall. Information on the project is [available on the capital projects website](#). The outside contractor for space study will be on site during spring break. The new loop road project will include bike and walking paths for easier access to the [student center and parking structure](#). In regard to sustainability and the parking structure: 1) Park Smart certification will be pursued, 2) Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations will be in the structure, and 3) fast charging options and grant funds will be reviewed.

Cheatham reported that Summer I enrollment is down 17% compared to this time last year. Students registered later than usual for spring 2023, so a trend of later registration may be persisting. There will be discussions on messaging for summer course offerings and how they can be used to reduce the time spent on graduation. Delivery modes are under review. The report on summer transfer credits is delayed, and Institutional Research is reviewing past data for trends.

### **Unfinished Business**

Cheatham reported that First Time in Any College (FTIAC) retention rates show the percentage of students who started in the fall and return in the following fall. This year, there was a decrease of 0.7%. There was a 5.2% increase for students who identify as Black or African American. There was a 3.8% increase for students who identify as an underrepresented minority. WMU is seeing decreases in retention with international students.

Fall-to-spring retention rates were also discussed. This year, there was a 1.5% increase in retention of new freshmen from the fall to the spring semester. Fall-to-spring persistence rates increased in every class of the University.

WMU has been trying to use need-based and merit-based aid more strategically with the Broncos Futures gift. Bronco Promise is being implemented as a last-dollar scholarship to offer zero tuition to incoming students with family income below a threshold, which 399 students took advantage of this year. Retention trends for those students will be analyzed.

The Michigan Achievement Scholarship came into effect and offered up to \$5,500 per year for five years to families with an estimated contribution of \$25,000 or less. About 77% of Michigan high school graduates would be able to attend a public university at almost no tuition costs.

Merze Tate College is where many of the university-wide student success initiatives are housed. It is also the home of the Navigator program, an initiative of the Empowering Futures gift. The University is using the [Wellness Wheel model](#) in guiding efforts toward student wellness. Students have access to wellness coaching in addition to existing services. Some of the existing services have been expanded through the Empowering Futures gift. One of the largest initiatives is the [Navigator program](#). Eleven navigators were hired across campus to work with students on a one-on-one basis to guide them to wellness services available to them based on their personal needs. The Student Success Hub will be part of the holistic approach to student success. There was a discussion of the early alert forms for students who need to connect with university support. Faculty and staff are not currently receiving feedback on those forms. The University is interested in closing the loop and providing some form of feedback to instructors.

### **Announcements**

CPFC invited Andrew Holmes, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology, to an upcoming meeting for an update on information security.

### **Adjournment**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Wagner, seconded by Dennis, to adjourn the meeting at 4:32 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Campus Planning and Finance Council will meet next on 21 March 2023 via Webex video conferencing.

### **Approval**

Submitted by LuMarie Guth, Secretary

Minutes approved on 21 March 2023.