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**Campus Planning and Finance Council**

Minutes of 17 October 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 17 October 2023 via Webex video conferencing by Geoffrey Lindenberg, chair.

**Members Present:** Todd Barkman, Cheryl Bruey, David Dakin, Betty Dennis, LuMarie Guth, Mohammad Daneshvar Kakhki, Lynne Heasley, Geoffrey Lindenberg, Melissa Rajter, Colleen Scarff, Tyler Smith, Jan Van Der Kley

**Members Absent:** Brett Geier, Valerian Kwigizile

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

**Ex Officio:** John Jellies

**Guests:** Steve Bertman, Professor, Environment and Sustainability; Jeff Spoelstra, Director, Office for Sustainability

**Quorum**

A quorum was present with 13 members in attendance, of the 10 needed to establish a quorum.

**Agenda**

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

**Minutes**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Dennis, seconded by Daneshvar Kakhki, to approve the 19 September 2023 minutes as presented. The motion carried with one abstention.

**Reports of Officers**

Chair Lindenberg reported on the 5 October Faculty Senate meeting. Items presented were:

1. Syllabus and accelerated degree programs
2. Appointment of a new ad-hoc committee for artificial intelligence
3. Faculty Senate faculty fees, voluntary contributions, and reinstated post-COVID
4. Six-year graduation rates improved, with student gains in diversity and first-generation college students
5. Updated curriculum change process.

Ex Officio Jellies reported on the general faculty fees of \$25, covering student center meeting space and other expenses for Faculty Senate events. Regarding the sustainability representation of CPFC, the Faculty Senate Executive Board recommends that if the CPFC chooses and votes to add the Office for Sustainability Director to the Council, the Executive Board approves. CPFC must consider whether such an addition would be Ex-Officio or a voting member, with the voting category being more involved.

**Reports of University Representatives**

Scarff reported that university booking and Strategic Resource Management (SRM) reports are available online. The WMU transparency website is current.

Van Der Kley reported that the State legislature is off until the next calendar year. CPC asked questions regarding state priorities.

Cheatham reported that the Provost's Office will post more detailed SRM metrics and data by college, including the quality indicators scoring.

Proudfoot reported that the new financial aid website is available to students. An updated marketing campaign has substantially increased click rates, landing pages, unique visitors to the webpages, and return/repeat visits. Sales of brown and gold gear are up. The cold case event with Dr. Ashlyn Kuersten was a huge success. Discussion ensued on questions of recruitment, retention, rankings, and peer institutions.

Dakin reported on the following projects:

1. Miller Auditorium veranda is complete
2. The Geological Survey Core Lab received a one-time state appropriation for a new facility, scheduled for summer 2025
3. WMU Autism Center received a one-time state appropriation to expand its facilities.

CPFC asked about appropriations and facilities, and recent construction, such as the new Student Center.

### **Unfinished Business**

Regarding the potential CPFC role as a representative from the Office of Sustainability, Heasley provided context, and Ex Officio Jellies offered Executive Board counsel. Spoelstra expressed interest and willingness in participating in the council and will consult with Cheatham.

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Heasley, seconded by Guth, to appoint the Director of the Office for Sustainability or their representative to CPFC in an advisory role. The motion passed with three abstentions.

### **New Business**

Spoelstra provided an overview of WMU sustainability efforts, including student projects and initiatives through the Office for Sustainability, the university's strategic plan, carbon neutrality planning, new climate action plan initiative, and team building with the support of President Montgomery. There is the possibility of a future task force, and great potential for outside funding. Bertman discussed climate action and sustainability as central for prospective students, including their choice of schools. Spoelstra outlined efforts WMU could implement on food waste, campus-wide measurable progress, downtown corridor, policy for safe sidewalks and commuting, and, most importantly, moving more quickly on the decarbonization plan.

### **Announcements**

None.

### **Adjournment**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Guth, seconded by Daneshvar Kakhki, to adjourn the meeting at 5 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Campus Planning and Finance Council will meet next on 21 November 2023 via Webex video conferencing at 3 p.m.

### **Approval**

Submitted by Lynne Heasley, substitute for LuMarie Guth, Secretary

Minutes approved on 21 November 2023.