

---

**Professional Concerns Committee**

Minutes of 15 November 2023

**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 15 November 2023, via Webex conferencing by John Miller, chair.

**Members Present:** John Jellies, Michael Kahwaji (substitute for Elizabeth Terrel), Richard Meyer, John Miller, Timothy Palmer, Marian Tripplett, Rena VanDerwall

**Advisory Members Present:** Joe Erskine, Eric McConnell, Sara Meiser

**Ex Officio:** Zeljka Vidic

**Quorum**

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

**Agenda**

The date of the previous minutes was corrected from 15 October to 25 October. Jellies asked that Ex Officio Vidic be identified as providing the Ex Officio report for the Executive Board of the Faculty Senate. Erskine asked that "Office of Student Conduct" be changed to the "Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities" under Reports of University Representatives.

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

**Minutes**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Jellies, seconded by VanDerwall, to approve the minutes of 25 October 2023. With two abstentions, the motion carried.

**Reports of Officers**

Chair Miller reported that, as he will be unable to serve as PCC chair following this academic year, the committee should be planning for succession.

Ex Officio Vidic reported that the discussion held at the PCC 25 October meeting, led by Meiser, regarding equity concerns associated with hardship withdrawals was reported to the Faculty Senate Executive Board. Accompanying data was shared with officers.

**Reports of University Representatives**

Erskine reported that cases of academic integrity are steady and in line with previous semesters. There are issues associated with artificial intelligence.

McConnell reported that the workload in the Ombuds office is heavy, and resources are strained, despite added resources this year (e.g., a new graduate assistant). McConnell will provide more information at the next PCC meeting to assist in determining the committee's role in identifying the need for additional resources. McConnell added that many offices, departments, and areas on campus have been asked to do more with less, and the addition of a graduate assistant, plus returning his position to full-time status, has been a significant step forward for the Office of the Ombuds.

**Unfinished Business**

Meiser followed October's discussion about equity concerns in Hardship Withdrawal and Academic Integrity cases. PCC discussed proposed policy change language options for academic integrity/hardship withdrawals. Because there was no consensus about a recommendation, Kahwaji, Miller, and Meyer will

refine the proposed language and report at the next meeting.

Chair Miller reported on feedback and edits received regarding MOA 23/XX-*Review Cycle for Academic Conduct Policies*. PCC reviewed the changes.

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Jellies, seconded by Meyer, to approve the MOA as amended. The motion carried unanimously. Chair Miller will forward the MOA to the Faculty Senate office.

### **New Business**

It was reported that Vice Chair VanDerwall will be on sabbatical in spring 2024 and will therefore be unable to complete her term as Vice Chair. Tripplett self-nominated to fill the role of Vice Chair.

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Jellies, seconded by Palmer, to elect Tripplett as Vice Chair. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Announcements**

None.

### **Adjournment**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Jellies, seconded by Palmer, to adjourn the meeting at 1:55 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Professional Concerns Committee will meet next on 6 December 2023 via Webex conferencing at 12:30 p.m.

### **Approval**

Submitted by Timothy Palmer, Secretary

Minutes approved on 6 December 2023.