

**Professional Concerns Committee**

Minutes of 17 April 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 April 2024, via Webex conference by John Miller, chair.

**Members Present:** Jennifer Bott (substitute for Timothy Palmer), John Jellies, Richard Meyer, John Miller, Marian Tripplett, Rena VanDerwall

**Members Absent:** Elizabeth Terrel

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

**Advisory Member Absent:** None

**Guest:** Sarah Meiser, Office of Student Conduct

**Ex Officio:** Zeljka Vidic

**Quorum**

A quorum was present with seven 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 amended. The motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Bott, seconded by Jellies, to approve the 20 March 2024 minutes as presented. The motion carried.

**Reports of Officers**

Chair Miller reported that he will meet with the Faculty Senate Executive Board on 9 May to discuss proposals. The Executive Board will likely request Sarah Meiser, Associate Dean of Student Rights and Responsibilities, to present student inequity data regarding inequity in withdrawal and academic conduct sanctions as part of the PCC presentation of the academic conduct policy revision in Memorandum of Action (MOA) 24/08. MOA 24/07 requesting publication of long- standing University hardship policies will likely be handled administratively.

Ex Officio Vidic did not provide a report.

**Action Items**

VanDerwall was nominated for the 2024-25 PCC chair. Miller was nominated for the 2024-25 PCC secretary. The position of vice chair remains vacant.

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Bott, seconded by Jellies, to elect VanDerwall as chair for 2024-25 PCC and Miller as secretary for 2024-25 PCC. The motion carried.

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Meyer, seconded by Jellies, to meet online for the 2024-25 PCC meetings. The motion carried.

**Reports of University Representatives**

Erskine reported that the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities continue its routine work on academic cases, which are more numerous as the term nears completion. Spring term case numbers are up over fall, though year-over-year numbers are roughly flat. McConnell discussed the work of the Ombuds Office. A busy season is anticipated once grades are turned in and will continue to be high over the course of the summer.

**Unfinished Business**

Chair Miller reported the progress on training materials. This project will continue with other stakeholders

in the summer and fall of 2024.

**New Business**

Chair Miller shared the annual report link. Feedback is received one week after grades are due.

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Jellies, seconded by Tripplett, to approve the PCC annual report draft form. The motion carried unanimously.

**Announcements**

None.

**Adjournment**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Jellies, seconded by Meyer, to adjourn the meeting at 1:07 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Professional Concerns Committee's next meeting will be determined over the summer.

**Approval**

Submitted by Timothy Palmer, Secretary

Minutes approved on 18 September 2024.