
Professional Concerns Committee

Minutes of 18 September 2024

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Professional Concerns Committee was called to order at 12:32 p.m. on 18 September 2024, via Webex conferencing by Rena VanDerwall, chair.

Members Present: Richard Meyer, John Miller, Elizabeth Terrel, Marian Tripplett, Rena VanDerwall, Amy Zufelt

Members Absent: None.

Advisory Members Present: Joe Erskine (substitute for Sarah Meister), Eric McConnell

Guests: Amy Naugle, WMU Faculty Senate President; Andrew Zolp, Physician Assistant Program Chair

Ex Officio: Dennis Simpson

Quorum

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

Agenda

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

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Miller, seconded by Meyer, to approve the 17 April 2024 minutes as presented. The motion carried.

Reports of Officers

President Naugle presented the 2024-25 Professional Concerns Committee charges.

Chair VanDerwall did not provide a report.

Ex Officio Simpson did not provide a report.

New Business

Zolp introduced the concern that representation on Grade Appeal and Program Dismissal Appeal Committees (GAPDAC) currently does not necessarily include faculty from clinical programs when a student is appealing grades or program dismissal related to clinical courses or competencies. This was discussed in the context of a particular case. Discussion included possible need for proper definition of "clinical", as well as preliminary operational concerns for the interplay between program dismissal and hardship. Chair VanDerwall requested that Zolp prepare a draft recommendation for policy or procedure changes.

Terrell left the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Action Items

Tripplett self-nominated for 2024-25 PCC vice chair.

[MOTION] It was moved by Simpson, seconded by VanDerwall, to elect Tripplett as Professional Concerns Committee vice chair for 2024-25. The motion carried.

Reports of University Representatives

Erskine reported that the policy changes put forth by PCC and approved during 2023-24 have been integrated into Student Rights and Responsibilities practices and procedures.

McConnell discussed the need for additional GAPDAC and Hardship Withdrawal Appeal panel participants. McConnell requested input from PCC on student forms for GAPDAC and Hardship and will prepare materials for review at PCC 23 October meeting.

Unfinished Business

None.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Miller, seconded by Meyer, to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Professional Concerns Committee will next meet on 23 October 2024 via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by John Miller, Secretary

Minutes approved on 23 October 2024.