
Campus Planning and Finance Council

Minutes of 15 October 2024

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Campus Planning and Finance Council was called to order at 3:01 p.m. on 15 October 2024 via Webex video conferencing by LuMarie Guth, chair.

Members Present: Todd Barkman, Cheryl Bruey, David Dakin, Kim Ganzevoort, LuMarie Guth, Lynne Heasley, Luke Kritzman, Valerian Kwigizile, Geoffrey Lindenberg, Jessyca Olvera, Colleen Scarff

Members Absent: Mohammad Daneshvar Kakhki, Jan Van Der Kley

Advisory Members Present: Christopher Cheatham, Jeff Spoelstra

Advisory Members Absent: Tony Proudfoot

Ex Officio Member Present: Osama Abudayyeh

Guests: Steven Bertman, Professor, School of Environment, Geography, and Sustainability; RayOnya Dukes, Student; Mitchell Luttermoser, Student; Kate Martini, Assistant Professor, Psychology; Damaris Potter, Student; Victor Rivas Hurtado, Student

Quorum

A quorum was present with 12 members in attendance, of the 10 needed to establish a quorum.

Agenda

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

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Bruey, and seconded by Heasley, to approve the 17 September 2024 minutes as presented.

Reports of Officers

Chair Guth reported the following on the October Faculty Senate meeting:

1. Updates from President Montgomery and Vice Provost Cheatham - WMU is celebrating an 81.1% retention rate, the highest ever. Enrollment was up by 46 students at the fall census.
2. Faculty awards were discussed.
3. Dennis Simpson presented new bylaws, which will be discussed and voted on at the next Senate meeting.
4. The Ombudsman presented an impartial third-party service for conflict resolution.
5. Report from the Artificial Intelligence (AI) committee, and the future of the AI committee were discussed. One recommendation was for the formation of a continuous task force or committee on AI.
6. May meetings of councils will cease. This will shorten the CPFC year.

Ex Officio Abudayyeh reported that the last Executive Board meeting was canceled. Charge 5 Enrollment Forecasting will be brought forward there. There was a question whether Charge 5 was addressed in last year's session and end-of-year report. Will Stutz presented last spring on the enrollment forecasting process. Chair Guth recalled that there was confidence in the process and was satisfied that council input was not needed.

Reports of University Representatives

Scarff reported on the following

1. American Association of University Professors (AAUP) contract negotiations are moving forward to the next step on 16 October. The budget is expected to be booked by 15 November, and subventions are to be determined. It remains to be determined when paychecks will show changes. Work begins on next year's budget soon.

2. The Strategic Resource Management (SRM) advisory group had its second meeting and included the college responsibility of unit deans, plus several other senior leaders. The group will direct feedback to the President's Cabinet. It is early in the process, and adjustments are expected; major overhauls are not expected.
3. Remzi Seeker joined earlier to discuss Facilities and Administrative (F&A). Upcoming topics include subvention rules. The group would be willing to meet with CPFC in November. A report out to campus is anticipated by April. Discussion ensued about Charge 3 (SRM) and class fees. CPFC members called for consideration of how aviation fees have been impacted by the 43% administrative portion pulled away from the flight fees, as one example. Scarff indicated that other colleges and programs are raising concerns and calling for discussions. Discussion and opinions were shared about fee impacts, incentives, disincentives, subvention, and differential tuition. The issue will be included in November.

Cheatham reported that the position for the Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management is posted. Finalists are expected on campus in late November. The position for the Associate Provost for Haenicke Institute for Global Education is in the process of being posted, and a committee is being assembled.

Dakin reported the following:

1. The Campus Master Plan effort is coming to a close. Final workshops are scheduled in November, and the process will conclude in December.
2. Core lab project planners are looking into building a new facility at the east end of Floyd Hall. The structure is expected to replace a portion of the existing parking lot. The structure won't be connected to Floyd Hall.
3. The new residence hall demolition is ahead of schedule.
4. WMU is still waiting on one important piece of electrical equipment needed to complete the new Hilltop Village parking garage. Once obtained, it will take three more weeks.
5. A third-party vendor has been secured for the student center "pub" space. Slight modifications of the space are underway through a facilities management project request, including a hood installation. Student Affairs is responsible for the contract. Dakin will inquire about the anticipated opening date.

Spoelstra reported that students are assembling grant requests for competitive funding available through the WMU Student Sustainability Grant Program. A maximum of \$37,500 is available this semester, and the application deadline is 21 November. A suggestion was made that the Program could be improved by adding an instructional video to help students navigate the application process.

Kritzman reported that Mental Health Week had concluded. The largest single event was the mental health resource fairs with about 600 attendees. Funding totaling \$86,000 was allocated to 59 Registered Student Organizations in September for multiple activities and events. The Western Student Association Executive cabinet is nearly complete and confirmed, with one position to fill.

Olvera reported that a Graduate Student Association (GSA) new constitution has been drafted. GSA is working on a constitutional committee and holds general assembly meetings from 3 to 4 p.m. every other week in the student center. Guest speakers are invited to discuss campus resources. Graduate students need assistance and tools to locate resources and call for the creation of a "one-stop shop" compilation on a website. GSA is collecting student feedback to determine unmet needs.

Action Items

Spoelstra was approved by the Faculty Senate Executive Board as an eligible CPFC Secretary.

[MOTION] It was moved by Bruey, seconded by Kwigizile, to approve Spoelstra as CPFC Secretary for the 2024-25 year. The motion carried.

Heasley offered to take notes if Spoelstra is absent.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Charge 2: Explore the Establishment of a Standing Committee Focused on Sustainability
Spoelstra provided an overview of past WMU sustainability efforts, especially environmental and social. Spoelstra described recycling, environmental studies, a President's University-wide Sustainability Committee, climate action planning, the sustainability fee, the Office for Sustainability, and climate change education and action led by the WMU Climate Change Working Group.

Bertman joined the meeting at 3:45 pm.

The following were discussed:

1. Proposed and discussed possible structures, including a new Sustainability Committee housed in the CPFC or a new Sustainability Council. Concerns were expressed about overextending CPFC and ensuring that enough faculty will be able to populate a new entity.
2. Work with existing sustainability and climate entities and any new entities like sustainability officers, cabinet-level sustainability specialists, or sustainability professionals housed in other WMU divisions.
3. Presidential search, climate action planning efforts, and the need to establish metrics and accountability for the Sustainability Goal in the WMU Strategic Plan.
4. Recent changes within CPFC to expand sustainability efforts. Discussion continued about composition and charges.

A suggestion was made regarding the disbanded transportation committee that could be drawn into the new sustainability entity. Transportation and sustainability are commonly grouped. There is concern that the whole of transportation concerns/issues might not be met if it were drawn into the sustainability committee, such as accessibility, bus stop accessibility, bus reliability, etc. The Graduate Student Association wants to address the current transportation concerns of graduate students. A bus survey will be distributed through Auxiliary Enterprises.

Charge 4: Campus Master Planning

Discussion with Perkins and Will is targeted for January 2025. Ex Officio Abudayyeh will discuss with the Faculty Senate and Executive Board on the composition and recruitment of council committees or new councils and will consider the new bylaws. There was a brief consideration and discussion of the possibility of adding a sustainability committee to the Faculty Senate Executive Board.

The Registered Student Organizations (RSO) College Democrats are creating a student sustainability committee that is expected to spin off from the RSO in time. Members expressed support for a new faculty committee with the Faculty Senate. Students expressed encouragement and a commitment to work with faculty to convey priorities across the administration. Needs expressed included working in tandem, student committee visibility, transparency, accountability, and enforcement. Students want to get to the implementation and action, and are reviewing other schools with example university-wide action networks and structures.

[MOTION] It was moved by Olvera, seconded by Heasley, to form an ad hoc committee to further explore Charge 2, recommend a structure/entity, and develop charges if warranted. With one abstention, the motion carried.

Volunteers were identified for the ad hoc committee and will report in November.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Abudayyeh, seconded by Lindenberg, to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Campus Planning and Finance Council will meet next on 19 November 2024 via Webex video conferencing at 3 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Jeff Spoelstra, Secretary

Minutes approved on 19 November 2024.