
Professional Concerns Committee

Minutes of 23 October 2024

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Professional Concerns Committee was called to order at 12:33 p.m. on 23 October 2024, via Webex conferencing by Rena VanDerwall, chair.

Members Present: Michael Kahwaji, Richard Meyer, Marian Tripplett, Rena VanDerwall, Amy Zufelt

Members Absent: John Miller

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

Ex Officio: Dennis Simpson

Quorum

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

Agenda

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

Election

VanDerwall resigned from the chair position but will remain on PCC. Kahwaji was nominated for 2024-25 PCC chair.

[MOTION] It was moved by VanDerwall, seconded by Meyer, to elect Kahwaji as PCC chair for 2024-25. The motion carried

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Meyer, seconded by Zufelt, to approve the 18 September 2024 minutes as presented. The motion carried.

Reports of Officers

Chair VanDerwall did not provide a report.

Ex Officio Simpson reported on the complaints about the hardship process and program concerns.

Reports of University Representatives

Erskine did not provide a report.

McConnell provided an update on the presentation at the Faculty Senate meeting, including notice that the Ombuds can serve students and faculty for individual issues. The Ombuds office now has a graduate assistant, which is timely given the anticipated increase in referrals on the last day to withdraw, which is 28 October.

Unfinished Business

Grade Appeal and Program Dismissal Appeals

VanDerwall provided an update on the request to require clinical faculty to be part of the Grade and Program Dismissal Appeal processes to inform the discussion/decision recommendations. PCC requested that Drew Zolp prepare and submit a draft proposal outlining the request. Ex Officio Simpson to follow up with Zolp so the proposal can be reviewed at the next PCC meeting.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by VanDerwall, seconded by Meyer, to adjourn the meeting at 1:31 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Professional Concerns Committee will next meet on 20 November 2024 via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Marian Tripplett, substitute Secretary

Minutes approved on 20 November 2024.