
Professional Concerns Committee

Minutes of 20 November 2024

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Professional Concerns Committee was called to order at 1:32 p.m. on 20 November 2024, via Webex conferencing by Michael Kahwaji, chair.

Members Present: Tom Gorczyca, Michael Kahwaji, Mariana Levin, John Miller, Marie Moreno (substitute for Amy Zufelt), Marian Triplett, Rena VanDerwall, Amy Zufelt

Members Absent: Richard Meyer,

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

Ex Officio: Dennis Simpson

Quorum

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

Agenda

The agenda was amended to add Unfinished Business – definition of “clinical”.

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

Minutes

An amendment was made to change Kahwaji from nominated, not self-nominated.

[MOTION] It was moved by VanDerwall, seconded by Simpson, to approve the 23 October 2024 minutes as amended. With four abstentions, the motion carried.

Reports of Officers

Chair Kahwaji will work with Ex Officio Simpson and the Faculty Senate Executive Board to define “clinical”.

Ex Officio Simpson stated that the definition of “clinical” is necessary to ensure proper representation and due process for grading and program dismissal appeals for clinical courses and clinical- or technical-expertise-oriented programs. A Memorandum of Action (MOA) may be requested from PCC addressing these concerns. An associated concern was the involvement of university administration in the resolution of the triggering case.

Erskine attended the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Reports of University Representatives

Erskine is active with a standard uptick in academic misconduct reports with the progression of the term.

McConnell discussed the following:

General outlines of the underlying student appeals that uncovered the complications associated with clinical and expertise-oriented programs. One focus is the interplay of Hardship and Program Dismissal. Ombuds’ forms changes for Hardship and Grade Appeals, as reviewed by PCC, have been implemented. Efforts to recruit additional faculty to serve on various appeals committees have been successful, with many new members in the pool.

Unfinished Business

There was a discussion regarding the definition of “clinical” addressed by officers, university representative reports, and the associated committee.

New Business

None.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Miller, seconded by Gorczyca, to adjourn the meeting at 1:25 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Professional Concerns Committee will next meet on 11 December 2024 via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by John Miller, Secretary

Minutes approved on 11 December 2024.