



Professional Concerns Committee

Minutes of 11 December 2024

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Professional Concerns Committee was called to order at 12:31 p.m. on 11 December 2024, via Webex conferencing by Michael Kahwaji, chair.

Members Present: Tom Gorczyca, Michael Kahwaji, John Miller, Richard Meyer, Marian Tripplett, Amy Zufelt

Members Absent: Mariana Levin, Rena VanDerwall

Advisory Member Present: Eric McConnell

Advisory Member Absent: Sarah Meiser

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 Miller, seconded by Meyer, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Minutes

An amendment was made to remove Zufelt from the attendance list. She was represented by a substitute.

[MOTION] It was moved by Simpson, seconded by Tripplett, to approve the 20 November 2024 minutes as amended. With three abstentions, the motion carried.

Reports of Officers

Chair Kahwaji summarized the Faculty Senate Executive Board feedback and planned actions regarding the previously discussed “clinical” definition as distributed to PCC.

Ex Officio Simpson discussed the interplay between academic processes and risk management decisions in the context of a recent program dismissal.

Reports of University Representatives

McConnell discussed the following:

“Unprecedented” volume of traffic into the Ombuds’ office. The increase appears to be a combination of increased pandemic-related and other mental stress, with increased on-campus enrollment. This includes new faculty consultations. It is important to have a better-defined safety net for non-academic issues that affect academic performance.

Pleased with the support staff, hoping to increase their appointments. Recruited twelve new Grade Appeal, Program Dismissal Appeal, and Hardship Withdrawal Appeal (GAPDAC/Hardship) panel members. The recently-approved form revisions are working in practice.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Announcements

Ex Officio Simpson will be temporarily unavailable at the university but will continue to attend virtual meetings.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Miller, seconded by Meyer, to adjourn the meeting at 1:12 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Professional Concerns Committee will next meet on 15 January 2025 via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by John Miller, Secretary

Minutes approved on 15 January 2025.