
Academic Information Technology Council

Minutes of 13 January 2025

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Academic Information Technology Council was called to order at 10:02 a.m. on 13 January 2025 via Webex video conferencing by Timothy Broadwater, chair.

Members Present: Timothy Broadwater, Brian Carnell, Jessica Cataldo, Annette Hamel, Andrew Holmes, Pavel Ikononov, Michael Kahwaji, Cara Masselink, Joshua Naranjo, Geraldine Rinna, Daniela Schroeter, Julia Stachofsky (substitute for Katie Marshall)

Members Absent: Colin Cork, Paul Gallagher, Michael Osei, Scott Puckett

Ex Officio Present: Kieran Fogarty

Guest: Bryon Glock, Director of Enterprise Application Success, Office of Information Technology

Quorum

A quorum was present with 13 members in attendance of the 10 needed to establish a quorum.

Agenda

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

Minutes

There were no minutes to approve.

Reports of Officers

Chair Broadwater did not provide a report.

Ex Officio Fogarty did not provide a report.

Reports of University Representatives

Holmes reported the following:

1. There are currently two VPN transitions. Avanti will be retired no later than 20 February 2025 for increased safety and security.
2. Offered Jacob Newman from the Office of Information Technology (OIT) to attend the 17 February AITC meeting to present Apps Anywhere and answer questions for 15 minutes.
3. Help Desk has fully transitioned to the second floor of the University Computing Center (UCC) and is available for visitation and collaboration. Classroom facility is also available for faculty touring and training on the equipment; classes may be scheduled in this room, with a capacity of 40, as soon as Summer I.
4. AITC to schedule the March in-person meeting in UCC.
5. OIT is working to increase hours but has no funding. Schroeter reported difficulty with Hyflex equipment and reported experiencing a lack of support in evening hours for graduate students.

Carnell reported the following:

1. [Accessibility available through WMUx upon request for course setup in eLearning](#). In 2024, 10% increase in student engagement in the system occurred (back to 2021 levels).
2. Adam Wall has been hired to increase accessibility on campus with the goal of 2026.

Glock reported the following:

1. Student Success Hub is collaborating with enrollment management and will collaborate with Kristen Salamanson, Enrollment Management, who will be joining WMU next week.
2. Discussed project with Alan Rea, Professor in the Business Information Systems Department.
3. Ex Officio Fogarty stated that experiential learning classes are unclear.
4. Updating the communication system for “hold” on classes to students, as the prior system was 10 years old, and examining the financial status associated with the “hold” status.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

There was interest in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) report recommendations. The following were discussed:

1. Cataldo asked if a response had been received to the report. Ex Officio Fogarty reported that there has been none, and no AI committee has been formed by the provost. At this time, it does not appear that WMU is pursuing AI initiatives.
2. Request by Carnell to approve AI software for use at WMU for consistency across classes. Microsoft Copilot approves AI software to use with sensitive data at WMU.
3. Holmes proposed requesting clarification of AI guidance. Kahwaji emphasized the need to understand how AI will be integrated into education, and Schroeter the need for it to be an interdisciplinary process.
4. Cost effectiveness and availability for faculty and students were discussed. The provost may be asked at the next Faculty Senate meeting about the master plan for AI infrastructure at WMU and to name a point person.

Announcements

Jacob Newman (OIT) to present Apps Anywhere at the February AITC meeting. The March AITC meeting will be held in person at the UCC. Ad hoc members will be invited.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Ikononov, seconded by Holmes, to adjourn the meeting at 10:58 a.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Academic and Information Technology Council will next meet on 17 February 2025 via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Cara Masselink, Secretary

Minutes approved 17 February 2025.