Campus Planning and Finance Council
Minutes of 18 March 2025

Call to Order
The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Campus Planning and Finance Council was called to order at 3:02 p.m. on 18 March 2025 via Webex video conferencing by LuMarie Guth, chair.

Members Present: Cheryl Bauman-Bruey, Kim Ganzevoort, LuMarie Guth, Lynne Heasley, Luke Kritzman, Valerian Kwigizile, Colleen Scarff, Jan Van Der Kley, Sara VanderVeen (substitute for David Dakin)
Members Absent: Todd Barkman, Shonda Buchanan, Mohammad Daneshvar Kakhki, Geoffrey Lindenberg, Jessyca Olvera
Advisory Members Present: Sara Nelson, Jeff Spoelstra
Advisory Members Absent: Tony Proudfoot
Ex Officio Member Present: Osama Abudayyeh
Guests: Shashanta James, Director, Student Financial Aid and Scholarships

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

Minutes
[MOTION] It was moved by Bauman-Bruey, and seconded by Ganzevoort, to approve the 18 February 2025 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda
An amendment was made to add the Western Student Association and Graduate Student Association under Reports of University Representative.
[MOTION] It was moved by Bauman-Bruey, seconded by Heasley, to accept the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Councils/Committees Standing Committee(s)
Charge 6: Review and report on university efforts to positively impact recruitment and retention. A focus area should include a review of Financial Aid budget packaging and guidelines. James presented and shared slides.

1. Financial Aid and Bronco Express are located on the main floor of the Faunce Student Services Building
2. Bronco Express is the service side for drop-ins, calls, emails, etc.
3. What do Financial Aid Administrators do? The work must meet Title 4 and continue the flow of financial aid. It takes coordination with many departments across campus.
4. Completed a partial program review with the Department of Education and are waiting for feedback/final report.
5. Consists of financial aid and scholarships, Bronco Express, and Student Success and Support.
6. Previously, a financial literacy group existed. There is hoped to again have a financial literacy group in the future to meet the ongoing needs of students.
7. With students and families, Financial Aid discusses the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and plans well before students attend college.
8. Technical elements include packaging, advising on financial aid, counseling on academic progress, aid limits, and adjusting financial aid packaging based on additional income and offers.
9. Financial Aid Administrators manage a year-round one-stop shop. Calls peak at 10,000 in August, recently due to FAFSA changes. Financial Aid Administrators educate local-to-federal support options, centralize forecasting for Enrollment Management, and provide data for modeling. Financial Aid Administrators write annual Department of Education (DOE) reports, reconcile all funds, and update policy to match changes at the state and federal levels.

10. 2024-25 total aid disbursed to date was $239,656,658, with about $10M more expected in the Summer I term.
11. Packaging elements include:
    a. Cost of Attendance – Student Aid Index – Other Financial Assistance = Need
    b. Merit Aid, Need-based Aid, Work Study, and Loans
12. Financial Aid Administrators send offer letters, receive accept/decline responses, and disburse aid.
13. Newer elements include debt letters, prison education program, Pell Grant eligibility, research on financial literacy modules, collaborating with Education Advisory Board (EAB) consultants on aid optimization for new students in 2025-26, and creating a compliance culture at WMU.
14. Upcoming deadlines and activities:
    a. Budgetary spending plans, gainful employment reporting, conveying University compliance responsibilities
    b. Reporting 2024-25, preparing for FAFSA 2025-26, and pivoting to understand recent executive orders
15. What changed for Pell Grants in 2024-25?
    a. Pell Grants previously had one method
    b. After the FAFSA revision, there are now three different processes to determine eligibility for Pell Grants
16. Satisfactory Academic Progress:
    a. To qualify for aid, students must maintain satisfactory academic progress
    b. WMU is required to have a reasonable monitoring system, including quantitative elements of pace and completion rate formulas
    c. In general, students maintain eligibility for federal aid if passing 67% of classes
    d. GPA monitoring happens when students meet junior status and need a 2.0 GPA minimum once 56 credit hours are obtained

Questions/Answers:

1. What happens when a student change program of study?
    a. A student may run into a time when they lose eligibility for financial aid based on pace and hours
2. What if a student adds majors or minors?
    a. Once a student exceeds 120 hours, the Financial Aid team monitors closely
    b. Once one degree is completed, the student is no longer eligible for financial aid
3. What are we seeing in terms of recruitment, retention, challenges, and successes?
    a. Successes: support from the new Michigan Achievement Scholarship is benefiting a lot of families
    b. Challenges: Pell Grant limits still leave students with difficult gaps to overcome, housing, meals, and tuition
    c. Financial Aid team is going through aid optimization with consultants right now and examining
    d. How to recruit students who are likely to be retained
    e. How to help students with big aid gaps
4. What can faculty do?
    a. Send students to Bronco Express if students are thinking of dropping classes
    b. Invite the Financial Aid team to talk to faculty groups
    c. Send students to virtual advisors linked to the Financial Aid website
    d. Faculty are helpful, but should immediately steer students to Financial Aid
5. What Executive Orders are impacting on us now?
    a. Reduction of staff in the DOE
        i. Only two of the seven regional centers are currently open
        ii. Slower program review visits are anticipated
6. What is coming up?
    a. Scholarship Universe needs to be populated to meet President Montgomery's call to centralize scholarships

James left the meeting at 3:53 pm.

Reports of Officers

Chair Guth reported:

1. CPFC presented activities at the recent and recorded Faculty Senate meeting themed around the Sustainability Goal in the WMU Strategic Plan.
    a. The President, Interim Provost, and Faculty Senate Executive Board Vice President Simpson introduced the meeting
        i. President Montgomery committed a share of funding in support of a campus sustainability tracking effort called the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS)
        ii. WMU has completed two STARS reports in the past 10 years
2. Chair Guth presented for CPFC and reviewed progress on Charges
    a. A question was raised about electric bike sharing
    b. Spoelstra encouraged collaboration and anticipatory policies that support micro-mobility options and ensure safety (e.g., pedestrian interactions, road/sidewalk use, speed limits, and battery charging)
3. Spoelstra presented on campus sustainability, student priorities, and WMU's greenhouse gas emissions trajectory
4. Representatives from the campus Wellness areas encouraged all to take surveys.
5. Regarding scooters, Bruey indicated that accidents/injuries are increasing. Discussion included -
    a. WMU has liability
    b. Proposals for e-scooters did come to CPFC in the past and were discussed
    c. The downtown arena and transportation corridor will likely lead to more interest
    d. Nelson shared this policy link
6. MOA on a Sustainability Committee has been edited and is ready to move forward to the Executive Board on 28 March.
7. Holmes will present at the April Faculty Senate meeting on Information Technology (IT) and security.

Ex Officio Abudayyeh reported:

1. The next CPFC meeting will include leadership elections.
2. Need to verify if the May meeting is canceled and might be confused with canceling June meetings.

Reports of University Representatives

Scarf reported:

1. Budget is in a holding pattern.
2. The SRM advisory group of deans from responsibility units is continuing discussions that include CPFC's recent questions.

Van Der Kley reported:

1. Regarding the Presidential Search Committee:
    a. Four finalists will be brought to campus. A campus announcement was just released
    b. Small, invited groups will meet with candidates
    c. The goal remains for 1 July start date

Nelson reported:

1. Fall registration started on 17 March. Undergraduate fall beginner applications are down 3.4% and admits are down 3.3%; Master's applications are down 11.6% and admits are up 1.9%; Doctoral applications are up 12.2% and admits are down 3.2%.
2. Undergraduate International beginner applications are up 10.9%; Undergraduate transfer applications are up 30.3%; Master's International applications are down 21%; Doctoral International applications are up 15%.
3. Summer I Undergraduate headcount down 9.2%; Graduate headcount up 1%; Total down 5.9%.
4. Summer II Undergraduate headcount down 9.2%; Graduate headcount down 8.6%; Total down 8.9%.
5. Likely factors include the anticipated "enrollment cliff", uncertainty at the federal level, and perceptions about the return on investment of higher education.
6. In addition, some other institutions are opening their gates wider on who are accepted and admitted.

Dakin reported:

1. Usage and characteristics of the new main campus parking structure:
    a. Upper decks have about 200 spaces for Arcadia Flats residents
    b. Lower floors have visitor parking for about 130
    c. Enforcement stops after 5 p.m. and over the weekend
    d. 11 Electric Vehicle (EV) stations in the deck, as well totaling 23 parking spaces
    e. No accurate numbers available due to software issues at this time
    f. EV charger price and fee structure need to be harmonized with the rest of the campus
2. The Autism Center will move into Unified Clinics.
3. The Student Center pub vendors are fitting out the space and plan to open in the fall.
4. The Ellsworth Parking Ramp is down.
5. Next month, VanderVeen will report on Capital Outlay and a new internal process.

Spoelstra reported:

1. Started a project request to update outdoor spaces around the Office for Sustainability building or on the main campus for raised bed gardens, picnic tables, composting, and third space features.
2. Incoming student leaders are leaning into sustainability and reviewing progress and opportunities.

Kritzman reported:

1. February 2025 allocations were steered to 51 Registered Student Organizations (RSO), 27 operational budgets, 70 events, and 8 conferences.
2. Mental Health Week finished with over 400 participants.
3. An RSO Leadership meeting was held.
4. Elections included 724 votes total with 432 for the Kritzman slate, 261 for the opposing slate, 9 no confidence, and 4 write-ins.
5. A ballot item passed on the Western Student Association (WSA) constitution with 96% in support, adding new positions and making changes.
6. A ballot item passed on the Affordable Learning Act, reducing credits to graduate from 122 to 120, with 97% supporting.
7. Question: When will WSA go dormant?
    a. End-of-year ceremony in April
    b. The Cabinet and Executive Cabinet work over the summer

Unfinished Business
None.

New Business
None.

Announcements
Chair Guth shared information about the WMU Seed Library activities and status.

Adjournment
[MOTION] It was moved by Abudayyeh, seconded by Heasley, to adjourn the meeting at 4:48 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Campus Planning and Finance Council will meet next on 15 April 2025 via Webex video conferencing at 3 p.m.

Approval
Submitted by Jeff Spoelstra, Secretary

Minutes approved on 15 April 2025.