
PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Minutes of September 15, 2021

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Professional Concerns Committee was called to order at 12:34 p.m. on 15 September 2021, in the Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center, and via Webex conferencing by Anne-Marie Guidy-Oulai, chair.

Members in Attendance: Christopher Cho, Ann-Marie Guidy-Oulai, John Jellies, John Miller, Leah Omilion-Hodges, Timothy Palmer, Karen Schieman

Advisory Members Present: Nicole Albee, Kathy Mitchell

Ex Officio: Decker Hains

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Agenda

Albee requested a change to the agenda as it called for her to update the committee on MOA-19/03. However, she reported the MOA was now with the Faculty Senate Executive Board.

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

Officer Elections

[MOTION] It was moved by Jellies, seconded by Omilion-Hodges, to elect Miller as vice chair. The motion carried unanimously.

[MOTION] It was moved by Jellies, seconded by Omilion-Hodges, to elect Palmer as Secretary. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Miller, seconded by Omilion-Hodges, to approve the 21 April 21 2021 minutes as presented. With two abstentions, the motion carried.

Reports of Officers

Ex Officio Hains delivered the 2021-202 charges. Discussion was held.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

None.

Reports of University Representatives

Albee provided an update on academic misconduct. There were 355 cases in 2020-21, up from 296 in 2019-20, and from 264 in 2018-19. Of the 355 cases this past year 255 include cheating (up from 154 in 2019-20), 22 for fabrication/falsification/forgery (down from 32 in 2019-20), five for multiple submissions (down from 8 in 2019-20), 166 for plagiarism (up from 158 in 2019-20), 66 for complicity (down from 116 in 2019-20) and 17 for computer misuse (down from 24 in 2019-20).

Mitchell reported that the office is now officially the Office of the Ombuds. She is on a 10-month contract, and Assistant at University Ombuds Eric McConnell is working 27 hours per week. The hours were cut as part of the Reduction in Force. Despite this challenge, turnaround of cases is approximately two weeks, which is being attributed to the benefits of virtual meetings.

Mitchell reported 207 cases from January through June, which is down one (208) from last year. The office is trying to better understand the nature of hardships WMU students are experiencing (i.e., COVID, medical, mental health, family issues).

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

The committee discussed the modality of future meetings. Hains will discuss this topic with the Executive Board.

The committee asked Hains to communicate two additional issues to the Executive Board. They include the status of MOA-20/03: *Syllabus Template*, work that began in fall 2019 and carried into spring 2020.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

Chair Guidy-Oulai adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m. The Professional Concerns Committee will meet next on 13 October 2021 at 12:30 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Timothy Palmer, secretary

Minutes approved on 13 October 2021.