
PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Minutes of 17 November 2021

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Professional Concerns Committee was called to order at 12:33 p.m. on 17 November 2021 virtually via Webex by Anne-Marie Guidy-Oulai, chair.

Members Present: 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

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

Minutes

A correction for misspelling was made.

[MOTION] It was moved by Jellies, seconded by Omilion-Hodges, to approve the 13 October 2021 minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Guidy-Oulai reported that her teaching schedule for spring 2022 will prohibit her from attending spring semester PCC meetings. She will seek a substitute. Vice Chair Miller has agreed to lead the spring PCC meetings.

Ex Officio Hains did not provide a report.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

None.

Reports of University Representatives

Albee provided the report of the Office of Student Conduct:

1. There are 65 academic misconduct cases to date this academic year (1 July through 17 November). This is similar to academic cases in 2018 (57) and 2019 (64) and a reduction from academic cases in 2020 (101). The conclusion is that WMU is in a normal range.
2. The number of behavioral cases (associated with COVID testing non-compliance) is extreme (7,973 to date; this number could include duplicate student cases).
3. It is up to individual faculty members to determine if having a red badge (testing non-compliant) is an acceptable excuse for a student to miss an in-class exam.

Mitchell provided the report for the Office of the University Ombuds:

1. The number of grade appeals is down from previous academic years. There are none from summer I or summer II, 2021.
2. The Grade Appeals and Program Dismissal Appeals Committee is meeting every two to three weeks. GAPDAC is able to move at a faster pace because of the ability to hold virtual meetings.

3. COVID is not significantly impacting the Ombuds office.

Unfinished Business

The committee continues to be uncertain about the status of MOA-19/03: *Required Reporting of Student Academic Misconduct* and MOA-21/06: *Conflict of Interest Policy*. Hains will seek clarification from the Executive Board and report back.

New Business

None.

Announcements

Chair Guidy-Oulai stated that Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jennifer Bott would be attending the April PCC meeting. Vice Chair Miller will circulate a Google document for PCC member to submit topics for that discussion.

Adjournment

[MOTION] Chair Guidy-Oulai adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m. The Professional Concerns Committee will meet next on 8 December 2021 at 12:30 p.m. virtually via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Timothy Palmer, secretary

Minutes approved on 19 January 2022.