

5-4-2005

Faculty Council Minutes, May 4, 2005

Faculty Council
Eastern Michigan University

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UNIVERSITY FACULTY COUCIL MINUTES – MEETING FOURTEEN

May 4, 2005, 3 – 5 p.m.

Tower Room, McKenny Union

104 Pierce Hall Faculty.council@emich.edu 487-0196

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

II. Approval of the minutes of April 6, 2005

The minutes were approved with two changes. First, an addition to V. Election of Faculty Council president. E. Martin stated that a positive outcome of the FC presidential election debates appears to be general agreement that Faculty Council and EMU-AAUP should work together in a cooperative and productive manner. Second, a correction to the list of those in attendance; H. Bunsis was not present.

III. Appointments and Motions

A. Continuing Education Advisory Council – reappointment

Daryl Barton was unanimously appointed to continue on this council.

IV. Web4 enhancement Demo – Chris Shell

Chris Shell reported as a member of the Data Access and Rapid Response Team, and she indicated that there are many sections to the Faculty Unit of my.emich.edu which can be activated. The plan is to ask faculty which of these they would find most helpful and then to implement these.

V. EMU-AAUP President – Howard Bunsis

A. Faculty Hiring Update and Number of Administrators

Out of the 73 searches, 36 (49%) have resulted in a person being hired, 15 (21%) have resulted in offers which have not yet been accepted, and one is at the stage of reviewing applications. Nine searches (12%) have failed. This means that we are likely to have 667 faculty members this coming Fall, for a net gain of 36 over the last two years. This means that the ratio of students to tenure-track faculty is continuing to increase. Currently it is 38 : 1, even though EMU administrators indicate in advertisements that the ratio is 19 : 1; they are adding together as “faculty” any individual in front of a class. Currently approximately 55% of classes are taught by tenure-track faculty. Proportionately many more staff and APs have been hired.

B. Classroom Facilities Update

EMU-AAUP would like to work with Faculty Council to create a prioritized list of improvements needed in classroom buildings, and to describe the reasons why this work is critical. There is consensus that the state of the classroom buildings causes the loss of students and faculty. VP for Student Affairs, Jim Vick, is the only administrator who has responded to the request to do something about classroom buildings, and he has been interested only in Health and Safety issues.

C. Continuing Education

Online and weekend classes are making a lot of money, but many of the Continuing Education Centers are losing money. The administration is

indicating that these centers have not been open long enough to make money, or that renovations have been done which cost a lot of money. However, the utility of each of the centers needs to be monitored. Are they bringing new majors to campus? Are they taking students who otherwise would come to campus? If a center continues to lose money, and if it provides no other significant gain, then it should be closed.

D. Court Case concerning Domestic Partner Benefits

EMU has entered a Friend of the Court brief. In fact, the write-up by EMU-AAUP was endorsed and accepted by the AAUP Conference. Interim President Willis indicated that he was not in a position to present a statement analogous to Dr. S. Coleman of the University of Michigan, because the Board of Regents would not endorse it.

VI. AQIP Projects: a brief overview – Daryl Barton

AQIP is the continuous quality improvement program which EMU now is following in place of the accreditation evaluations which took place every ten years. A mandatory project involves helping students learn. The General Education implementation is too large a project to consider. The intent is to have a small and a large project, and then as the small project is finished a new one will be started. Four projects are scheduled to be presented in Chicago to other universities for feedback, and the Cabinet will choose the final projects to be done.

VII. eLearning Standards

The standards will go to the Provost and are part of a package for cost management. It is written in terms of the types of service, but not in terms of a specific supplier, so that negotiations can take place. Classes will be designated as 100% online, hybrid, or web-enhanced. Students similarly will know better what to expect. The standards passed 24 – 1 – 0.

VIII. Undergraduate Certificates

Please read the Final Report for discussion and vote at the June 1 Faculty Council meeting. The report will be sent out electronically also, to make it easier to get feedback from faculty.

IX. Library Fines Policy Revisions

There is a problem with some faculty members' failure to return books, especially books which have been recalled, because someone else would like to use the book. A proposal involving fines was proposed by University Librarian Rachel Chen. It failed to be approved. A modification to fines only for recalled books but not overdue books similarly failed to be approved.

Please study the report for further consideration at the next Faculty Council meeting. The report will be sent out electronically for feedback from faculty members.

X. Announcements

A. Testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education

Many faculty and administrators and even some students went to Lansing. Fewer people ended up being able to address the subcommittee than was indicated on the agenda, but there was repeated reiteration that graduation

rates do not reflect what happens at a university and that the amount of money allocated to higher education is distributed inequitably.

B. New Regent to the Board of Regents

Both Howard Bunsis and Daryl Barton agreed that it is not likely that we can influence Governor Granholm's choice of regent.

C. Budget Cuts, Tuition, Earning Power

It is likely that there will be further budget cuts. The state is looking into selling bonds. It is unknown whether there will be a cap on tuition.

However, if the plans for a super-WalMart become reality than many of our students will earn less in the retail trade, because of competition and clauses in contracts which will lower the payrate.

D. Program Review – Lidia Lee

The proposal will require departments to write a brief annual assessment report as an addendum to prior reports. Reports also are supplementary to outside accreditation, if there is any.

E. Computer Refresh, Monitor Size – Debi Silverman

The monitors will be flat ones. The sizes available are either 15 or 17 inches, and the representatives of Faculty Council indicated to Debi a very strong preference for the larger screens.

F. Electronic materials for the next meeting sent out

XI. Future Meetings

- The Fifteenth Faculty Council Meeting for the 2004-2005 Academic Year will be held on June 1, 2005, 3 to 5 p.m. in the Tower Room of McKenny Union.
- Note: Please make sure you read your e-mail regularly. It is the primary method of communication regarding upcoming Faculty Council Meetings and announcements. Please reduce your accumulated e-mail and empty your trashcans. Otherwise an OVERQUOTA message will appear and you will not receive current materials.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alida Westman

Present: S. Moeller (ACC); V. Okafor (AFS); J. Eisenbach (BIOL); T. Brewer (CHEM); S. McCracken (CTA); M. Evett (COSC); S. Erenburg (ECON); S. Krause (ENGL); I. Ahmad (CIS); C. Day (FLABS);); M. Paciorek (HPHP); D. Silverman (HEALTH SCI); C. Haddad (TECH STUDIES); G. Mitchell (ENGIN TECH); L. Shirato (HALLE); D. Barton (MKT); J. Jones (MATH); D. Foster (MUS); P. Alford (NURS); E. Behringer (PHY/AST); E. Martin (PLS); A. Westman (PSY); R. Orrange (SAC); L. Lee (SPED); M. McCormack (TED); S. Norton (WMST).

Ex-Officio: N. Contas (ASSISTANT V.P. OF ACADEMIC SERVICES)

Guests: M. Tack (PRESIDENT'S OFFICE); C. Shell (ASSOCIATE DRIECTOR OF RECORDS AND REGISTRATION); H. Bunsis (EMU-AAUP PRESIDENT), M. Chan (SHS alternate).

Absent: ART, GEO/GEOLOGY, HIST/PHIL, L & C, MGMT, SWK