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Faculty Senate Minutes, January 19, 2011

Faculty Senate
Eastern Michigan University

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Minutes for Faculty Senate

January 19, 2011

3:00-5:00PM, SC310

1. (3:00) Approval of agenda (approved)
2. (3:05) Approval of the minutes of the 12/1/10 meeting (approved with 3 abstentions)
3. (3:10) Appointments
 - a. Univ. Research and Sabbatical Leave Comm., from COB
 - i. Winter 2011: Mahmud Rahman (COB)
 - b. Budget Council, from COE (no nominees yet)
 - c. Academic Information Technology Advisory Committee (2-yr term)
 - i. Tom Suchan (ART), Sandra Nelson (NURS) will be the alternate
 - d. Student Success Council. (2-year term)
 - i. CHHS (no nominees yet)
 - e. Gen Ed, Course Vetting (3-year)
 - i. Social Sciences [Ana Monteiro-Ferriera (AAS)]
 - f. AQIP Comm. Category 1 (Helping Students Learn) (no nominees)
 - g. Non-academic IT advisory comm. (2-yr) (no nominees)

Questions were raised about the charges of various committees and it was noted that it would be helpful to shared governance if university-level committees were on a website with their purpose, committee membership, etc.

4. (3:25) Resolution to support Graduate Council's approval of PTE Academic for graduate admission
 - a. The Faculty Senate supports the Graduate Council's approval of the use of the Pearson Test of English
 - b. Academic (PTE Academic) for graduate admission with a minimum overall score of 58. The Senate understands that starting in Fall 2011 or Winter 2012, admissions will thereby be possible using TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB, or PTE. (Motion passed with 2 abstentions).

Text of the Resolution:

A Resolution Supporting Graduate Council's approval of "PTE Academic" for graduate admission

From the Faculty Senate Executive Board

The Faculty Senate supports the Graduate Council's approval of the use of the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) for graduate admission with a

minimum overall score of 58. The Senate understands that starting in Fall11 or Winter12 admissions will thereby be possible using TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB or PTE.

5. (3:35) Should we invite the Honor's College to name a member to be seated as a non-voting member at Senate meetings?
 - a. Membership representation on Faculty Senate and voting rights are determined by our bylaws and contractually approved. In the meantime, Honors College is welcome to sit at the open meeting and should be notified of the meeting dates this semester. They are also welcome to schedule a presentation. (Approved unanimously).
6. (3:45) Resolution regarding academic calendars

The Winter 2011 semester falls sort of the ideal semester of 14 weeks of class plus a final exam period by between one and two weeks, depending on class meeting time. To avoid similar shortfalls in the future, be it hereby resolved that:

- 1) The University Calendar Committee should immediately review previously approved future calendars to see if similar problems have been built into upcoming semesters. If possible, corrective actions should be sought where shortfalls occur.
- 2) The University Calendar Committee needs to resume the tradition of having proposed calendars reviewed by Faculty Senate (previously Faculty Council) before their submission to the Board of Regents for approval. This practice has not been followed for the past few years.
- 3) The Faculty Senate requests a report back from the University Calendar Committee by no later than March 2011. (Approved Unanimously).

It was also noted that for Fall semesters, if we start classes after Labor Day, we cannot end them until after December 20. The primary issue is Winter Semester, MLK day, and the competing interests of Housing and Dining Services in students leaving the dormitories during finals week.

7. (4:00) Provost's Remarks
 - a. Regarding Blue Cross/Blue Shield's mistake in handling coverage transitions. Clerical errors were made by the small staff manually entering all EMU employee data. By January 20 every employee's record will be audited for accuracy and pay adjustments will be made where errors are found. Faculty will be notified if they were affected.
 - b. Dave Dugger of Early College Alliance (ECA) has reported that for Fall 2010 semester, grades of students attending EMU as part of their high school curriculum earned all time high grades. Eighty-one percent had a C average or better and 71% had a B or better.
 - c. Academic Affairs Strategic Planning Steering Group. The committee is co-chaired by Bob Winning and Tara Fulton. There are nine faculty

representatives, seven of which were appointed by Faculty Senate. The committee is charged with developing a five-year strategic plan and intermediate goals in the areas such as faculty support, student success, diversity, and interdisciplinary partnering.

- d. Provost's Appointments: Byron Bond will serve as Interim Associate Provost to replace Bob Neely. Claudia Petrescu and Russ Olwell will serve as Interim Co-Directors of the Institute for the Study of Children and Families (ISCFC) to replace David Clifford. Peggy Liggitt will serve as Director of Academic Assessment.
 - e. Comments: Senators expressed concern about basic mathematics competencies of students and their ability to write research reports. Competency based expectations may be an appropriate future direction, as is the case with the Early College Alliance (ECA).
8. (4:10) Forums for academic and athletic funding
 - a. Organizing an open forum to discuss academic and athletic funding.
 - b. Howard B. will present.
 - c. Date TBA
 9. (4:20) The timing of the publication of resolutions [Matt Evett]
 - a. Normally we pass a resolution that goes into the minutes, which then get approved much later. Faculty don't see them very quickly.
 - b. Ideally we could get input from the Faculty before the draft resolution is approved.
 - c. D Barton moves that resolutions go out to the faculty before the FS votes on it, where possible. After resolutions are passed, they will be sent to the full faculty as soon as possible. (Passed Unanimously)
 10. (4:25) The University Faculty Council Leadership Scholarship [Daryl Barton]
 - a. The current funds will be dispersed this year, should we continue this scholarship opportunity?
 - b. Perhaps an endowed scholarship is an alternative. We would need to raise \$12,500.
 - c. Daryl will take checks at the next meeting. Amount: \$20.11, checks made out to the EMU Foundation.
 11. (4:35) Discussion of expenditures by the Retention Council [David Crary]
 - a. Notebooks sent out by the Retention Council seemed to be a waste of money.
 - b. There was discussion of making the information available online. We have no consolidated list of resource for our teachers. Our websites, "not to put too fine a point on it, suck."
 - c. If there are suggestions about other ways to disseminate the information, feel free to make suggestions.
 12. (4:40) Discussion of the "E" grade [see attached]
 - a. Proposed resolution concerning grading policy, wording attached.
 - b. Draft proposal will be sent out to the faculty for comment.

13. (4:45) Status report from eFellows Committee[Lidia Lee]
 - a. Call went out 1/7 for eFellows, due 1/19, these dates might be extended.
 - b. MCP questions are meant to gauge enthusiasm.
14. (4:50) Status report from EEFC [David Crary]
 - a. Faculty have moved into the new Mark J
 - b. CoT rep has stepped down.
15. (4:55) President's Remarks
 - a. Zimbra e-mail situation
 - i. A new e-mail system will be selected. Matt and two additional FS members will participate. We'll select members next week.
 - b. Digital Literacy Committee

Present: D Barton (MKT/LAW), M Bombyk (SOC WK), M Zinggeler (WORLD LANG), S Nelson (NURS), P Francis (L&C), M Higbee (HIST & PHIL), K Kustron (TECH STUDIES), K. Banerji (MGMT), M Evett (COSC), R Orrange (SAC), T Moreno (HPHP), J Carbone (SHS), D Chou (CIS), W Zirk (MAD), J Eisenbach (BIO), D Crary (ECON), J Texter (SET), S Gray (WGST), T Brewer (Grad Council), L Kolopajlo (CHEM), J Nims (LIB), K Saules (PSYCH), E Martin (PLSC), J C Jones (MATH), R Woods (AFR AM ST), M Reedy (ART), P Koehn (PHYS & ASTR), L Lee (SPED), S McCracken (CMTA)

Respectfully submitted,

Marti Bombyk and Patrick Koehn

Appointments:

- c. Univ. Research and Sabbatical Leave Comm., from COB (for Winter semester)
- d. Budget Council, from COE
- e. Academic Information Technology Advisory Committee (2-yr term)
- f. Student Success Council. (2-year term)
 - i. CHHS
- g. Gen Ed, Course Vetting (3-year)
 - i. Social Sciences
- h. AQIP Comm. Category 1 (Helping Students Learn)
- i. Non-academic IT advisory comm. (2-yr)

A Resolution Supporting Graduate Council's approval of "PTE Academic" for graduate admission

From the Faculty Senate Executive Board

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A Resolution Regarding Calendars for Academic Semesters

From the Faculty Senate Executive Board

Eastern Michigan University's theme and primary mission is "Education First". Students receive their university education primarily through regularly scheduled classes.

Eastern Michigan University lists its fall and winter academic terms as being 15 week semesters.

The winter 2011 academic term falls short of a 15 week semester by all except the most liberal interpretation. The following are the scheduled meeting times for the most commonly scheduled 3 credit hour time slots:

M/W meeting 2 times per week: 25 classes + final = 12.5 weeks plus final.

T/R meeting 2 times per week: 26 classes + final = 13 weeks plus final.

M meeting 1 time per week: 12 classes + final = 12 weeks plus final.

T/W/R meeting 1 time per week: 13 classes + final = 13 weeks plus final.

Thus, the winter 2011 semester falls short of the ideal semester of 14 weeks of class plus a final exam period by between one and two weeks, depending on class meeting time.

To avoid similar shortfalls in the future, be it hereby resolved that:

- 1) The University Calendar Committee should immediately review previously approved future calendars to see if similar problems have been built into upcoming semesters. If possible corrective actions should be sought where shortfalls occur.
- 2) The University Calendar Committee needs to resume the tradition of having proposed calendars reviewed by Faculty Senate (previously Faculty Council) before their submission to the Board of Regents for approval. This practice has not been followed for the past few years.
- 3) The Faculty Senate requests a report back from the University Calendar Committee by no later than March 2011.

E-Grade and F-Grade

On April 15, 2009, the Faculty Council passed the following resolution:

Proposal to Change the E-Grade to an F-Grade

Given the use of the E by Eastern and the fact that an F frequently indicates a failing grade, Donna Bobcean [sic] from Registration presented a proposal at the last meeting to change the E grade to an F grade. The proposal passed (19-0-1).

The university still seems to be issuing E grades, so a status report appears to be in order.

Faculty Senate Resolution

Whereas there are repeated concerns expressed by faculty regarding certain grading policies, be it resolved that

1. EMU change its policy of requiring hard copy submission of a complete Incomplete grade within one year of its occurrence. The faculty want to be able to handle this electronically.
2. Grade changes caused by a clerical error or the student's advocacy for why the grade should be different should not require the signature of the department head/ director and college dean if the change occurs within the first month of the subsequent semester.
3. The letter grade that represents failing a course should be changed from E to F.
4. A faculty member shall be appointed to the committee of the Records and Registration office that sets grading submission procedures.

Respectfully submitted,

Marti Bombyk