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Faculty Council Minutes, January 5, 2005

Faculty Council
Eastern Michigan University

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UNIVERSITY FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES – MEETING EIGHT

January 5, 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 3:09 p.m.
- II. Approval of the minutes of December 1, 2004
The minutes were approved as revised. The revisions indicate what the requirements are for a motion to pass in Faculty Council and a comment to indicate that some faculty believe that the technological literacy requirements in the new Gen Ed Proposal are inadequate.
- III. Appointments
 - A. Review of Program Review
Suzanne Hobson, Leadership & Counseling, was appointed.
 - B. University Strategic Planning – 2 year appointments
 - a. College of Technology: **Nominations are needed.**
 - b. College of Health and Human Services –
Debi Silverman was appointed
- IV. Faculty Council Executive Board Motion on Gen Ed Revision Proposal
All comments on the Proposal for Revising General Education were sent to Dr. Loppnow, Interim Provost and V.P. for Academic Affairs. He indicated that he would incorporate suggestions as appropriate but reply to all of them and indicate the proposal to be presented to the Board of Regents on January 18, 2005. The Board approves new programs.
The Faculty Council Executive Board proposed that the first four sections of the General Education Proposal and the comments collected on these sections be approved.
The motion was approved: 18 Yes, 7 No, and no abstentions.
- V. General Education Discussion
 - A. Section V of the Proposal to Revise General Education
This consists of a set of option for Learning Beyond the Classroom, and students who are not transfer students need to satisfy two of the six options.
Comments included the following.
 - Depending on the number of hours students transfer to EMU, they will have to do none (if transferring 60 or more hours) or only one (if transferring 30 – 59 hours) of these requirements.
 - If credit bearing courses are taken, then this increases the number of Gen Ed hours by 3 to 6 hours.
 - It may help students feel more included, especially returning students. It has been good for retention at universities, and also makes the university experience significantly different from the community college experience.

- Good events are not well attended unless students are required to come. Perhaps if students are required to attend, some of them will find the event inspirational. This is worth the effort. It also suggests that students will be more inspired if these activities are incorporated in the course work described in Section I – IV. However, Alternate Weekend Breaks or Alternative Spring Breaks have been found to be life changing events, and they are not tied to specific coursework.
- It is not clear why the activities need to be done over the course of two semesters. Also some students are likely to postpone these activities until they are getting ready to graduate, and it may hold up their graduation.
- When the activities are required for majors, they count for both the Gen Ed Section V requirement and the major. (Double-dipping is perfectly O.K.)
- Foreign students and returning students may find this to be a difficult requirement. Further, it is not clear how to implement this proposal with Online students.
- Record keeping may be a problem; however, student ID cards can be used as swipe cards to indicate attendance at approved events.
- References to specific courses should be removed. All courses need to be vetted.

Motion: Faculty Council in principle approves Section V of the Proposal.

The motion was approved: 20 Yes, 3 No, 1 Abstention.

B. Implementation of the Proposal to Revise General Education

Dr. Loppnow indicated that there would be faculty representation on the implementation committee.

Beyond this the implementation will still need to be worked out, and it is not part of what the Board of Regents votes on. Further, there was not enough time left during this meeting to discuss possible implementation strategies.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

VII. Announcements

- The NINTH Faculty Council meeting for the 2004-2005 Academic Year will be held on January 19, 2005, 3 – 5 p.m., in the Tower Room of McKenny Union.
- The seventh Faculty Council Executive Board (FCEB) meeting will be held on January 12, 2005, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Faculty Council Office, 104 Pierce Hall.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alida Westman

Present: V. Okafor (AFS); E. Schwartz (ART); M. Coffman (BIOL); T. Brewer (CHEM); S. McCracken (CTA); M. Evett (COSC); S. Erenburg (ECON); S. Krause (ENG); I. Ahmad (CIS); M. Zinggeler (FLABS); C. Mayda (GEO/GEOL); D. Silverman (HEALTH SCI); C. Haddad (TECH STUDIES); G. Mitchell (Engin Tech); L. Shirato (HALLE); R. Hill (MGMT); D. Barton (MKT); G. Ahlbrandt (MATH); V. Benitez (MUS); P. Alford (NURS); J. Porter (PHY/AST); A. Westman (PSY); M Ziefert (SWK); R. Orrange (SAC); J. Tonkovich (SPED); S. Norton (WMST).

Ex-Officio: D. Loppnow (INTERIM PROVOST AND V.P. OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS) **Guests:** M. Shichtman (CHAIR OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION REFORM COMMITTEE), and G. Frank-Miller (MEMBER OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION REFORM COMMITTEE), J. Blumner, and K. Stacey.

Absent: ACC, HIST/PHIL, HPHP, L&C, PLS, TED