

2009

Faculty Senate Minutes, December 2, 2009 (Draft)

Faculty Senate
Eastern Michigan University

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DRAFT
UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MINUTES – MEETING SIX
December 2, 2009, 3 – 5 p.m.
310 Student Center

www.emich.edu/facultycouncil

mevett@emich.edu

487-0196

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.

II. Approval of the Agenda

Daryl Barton moved and David Crary seconded the motion to approve the agenda. It was approved unanimously after the addition of two items. The first was a report from Budget Council by Mahmud Rahman; see IX below. The second was a motion about transparency of searches; see XI below.

III. Approval of the Minutes of November 18, 2009

Mark Higbee moved and David Chou seconded the approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved with one abstention (21-0-1).

IV. Committee Appointments

A. University Budget Council

A faculty member from CAS is needed to serve as an alternate with a 2-year term in case any of the 6 faculty representatives cannot attend. David Crary graciously volunteered to be a temporary alternate until a permanent one can be appointed. Mark Higbee moved and Marti Bombyk seconded the motion to appoint David Crary as temporary alternate. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Campus Disability Advisory Committees

There are three subcommittees.

a. Student Experiences. Bill Cupples (Special Education) was appointed by acclamation.

b. Campus Accessibility. Volker Krause (Political Science) was appointed by acclamation.

c. Academic Experiences. Elected were Sally Burton-Hoyle and Derrick Fries (Special Ed), Marguerite DeBello (Nursing), Pamela Lamerand (Occupational Therapy), and Robert Rhodes (Orthotics & Prosthetics). Genevieve Peden and Sayuri Kubota (World Languages) will serve as alternates or members of one of the committees. Matt Evett will check with Adam Meyer, Director of the Students With Disabilities Office, about what is most helpful.

C. University Judicial Board

Michael Barnes is interested in serving on the University Judicial Board. On November 4, it was decided that a pool of faculty would be best, so that there always are faculty available to serve, and a pool of people was approved. The minutes of November 4 were approved on November 18.

The Faculty Senate Executive Board recommended that Michael Barnes be added to the pool mentioned in the minutes of November 4. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Report from Search Committees

A. Chief Government Relations Search Committee – Marti Bombyk

The committee completed its search and sent two names to President Martin for her consideration.

B. Chief Information Officer Search Committee – Matt Evett

There was an excellent pool which consisted of 219 candidates. Through a number of reductions, a short list will be created. There are both internal and external candidates.

The title of the position may not be most communicative. Perhaps more communicative would be the title of Chief Information Technology Officer.

VI. Comments by EMU President Susan Martin

President Martin apologized for her postponement of the address, but not for her priorities. Her older brother was ill and died, and the representatives expressed their deepest sympathy at the loss.

Enrollment. President Martin expressed her gratitude to faculty, alumni and staff for their help in increasing enrollment. The Fall term enrollment was up 4½ % and the Winter term is up 5 to 6 %. Further, the number of students with a higher grade point average also is up.

Faculty Searches. Forty-one tenure track faculty searches have been approved in anticipation of retirements and faculty being hired away.

Security. The new police station has good video, and this is used to investigate, apprehend and prosecute criminals. This has decreased the number of crimes. A crime unit has been formed which consists of two police officers and an investigator. The EMU police work together with the Ypsilanti police. The police are more visible and proactive. Further four additional dispatchers have been authorized, so that there will be two on duty at any time, and, if one is absent, there will not be a need to have a police officer handle dispatches as best possible.

Lansing. The budget is not yet finished, and the university needs to be very conservative in planning. This year work-study was cut. The university replaced it, because this income is very critical for students to be able to finish their studies. There is hope for passing a capital outlay bill, and Strong has been proposed for renovation. President Martin has been very careful to make sure that the correct papers are filed and on time whenever a project involves three million dollars or more.

University Attorney. The General Counsel/University Attorney Ken McKanders is leaving at the end of February, and a replacement needs to be found.

“Death of the Interims.” President Martin is hoping that she soon will be able to have a party for the search committees and celebrate the end of the large numbers of interims with which EMU has functioned.

Feedback Welcomed. President Martin indicates that she appreciates feedback.

Discussion brought out the following points.

- The administration is trying to formulate a 3-year budget. The next budget hopefully will be approved by June 15, so that faculty searches can be announced soon thereafter. In parallel, Provost Kay hopes to have his list of searches outlined by April.
- The criteria for awarding the faculty searches will be made more transparent, so that disputes between departments and colleges are minimized. The principle consideration is enrollment. Accreditation needs also will be considered.
- The dean of the Graduate School is still an interim. Provost Kay would like to have a permanent dean, but the search has not yet been approved.

- Fulltime Freshpersons are only 10% of the students. In the Detroit metropolitan area, 25% of 25-34 year olds have some college and no degree. This percentage is 14 in Boston and 15 in New York, so it is much higher locally. We should explore how we can get these students to finish their studies at EMU. Recommendations include sending them a letter and asking what EMU can do to have them finish their studies at EMU and making reenrollment easier to do.
- Provost Kay indicated that students who register but then do not come to EMU should not be included in the cohort.
- President Martin indicated that doctoral programs should be looked at carefully, because they are very expensive. The program should enhance our national standing.
- Community Colleges are looking to provide 4-year degrees in nursing, technology management, and hotel management. President Martin indicated that she is urging the Presidents' Council to put pressure on universities to work together with community colleges and make transfer easier. EMU accepts 92 credit hours for students in Technological Management. We also need to keep in mind that community colleges get more financial support through taxes.
- Parking is important for attracting students. Classes on Saturday, Sunday, evenings, and online decrease the parking problem. President Martin indicates that the North Lot has parking spaces.
- It is better to think about transportation rather than parking, because this makes the civic application clearer, the use of public transportation, etc.

VII. Policy Regarding Scheduling of Evening Classes – David Crary

It is problematic to have all classes start at 5:30, because (a) students who work cannot necessarily get to class at this time, (b) there are not enough classrooms on the main campus, and (c) asking for many exceptions to rules is bad policy. As a result the following resolution was passed with one abstention (22-0-1). *The Faculty Senate respectfully requests that the Provost issue amended scheduling guidelines that add additional acceptable starting times for 3-hour evening classes.*"

Provost Kay indicated that the requested flexibility for 3-hour classes made sense to him, and he intends to check with Bette Warren to make sure that flexibility on this does not lead to other problems.

VIII. Pray-Harrold and Mark Jefferson renovation/construction – David Crary

With respect to Pray-Harrold, the department heads received information about the swing spaces designated for their departments. They are urged to check that they have the right spaces, e.g. labs, for their instructional needs.

IX. University Budget Council – Mahmud Rahman

The University Budget Council has proposed that the administrators receive their pay increases. The logic behind the details of the freezes is not clear. The freezes set a bad precedence, and transparency is important.

X. Roll Call Votes in the Faculty Senate

The bylaws do not indicate how votes should happen. Matt Evett recommended that the roll call vote should be recorded by department/school, and this requires getting appropriate abbreviations for them. Roll call votes should be used only for motions

and not for appointments or other matters. It is acknowledged that nontenured individuals may feel threatened by votes which are not popular.

Discussion pointed out that some people feel peer pressure when there is a roll call vote, whereas others do not. Perhaps if individuals feel peer pressure, they should not be in the senate. Roll call votes do lead to more accountability, but it should not be possible for one person to call for such a vote as is currently the case with secret ballots. Roll call votes should be limited to serious policy matters.

Sally McCracken who has been involved with Faculty Council for decades indicated that a secret vote might lead to a more honest vote which indicates what people genuinely believe. The system is not broken; it has worked well for decades.

XI. Making Faculty Release for Administrative Duties More Transparent – Carol Haddad

It is recommended that within their departments/schools, faculty look at the Department Input Document to check how such appointments are made within a department/school. Faculty also should check their College Council Bylaws to make sure that procedures are adequately described.

Carol Haddad was invited to revise her proposal, so that the concepts are better defined, e.g., what constitutes a “formal search,” where the opening is to be posted.

XII. Adjournment and Next Meetings

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

The dates for the next Faculty Senate meetings are 1/6/, 1/20, 2/3, 2/17, 3/17, 4/7, 4/21 if necessary, 5/19 (tentative) and 6/16 (tentative).

The president of EMU-AAUP, Susan Moeller, will speak on issues concerning the AAUP on 1/20/10.

The next Board of Regents meeting is on December 17, and faculty are urged to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Alida Westman

Present: M. Rahman (ACC); D. Pancioli (ART); R. Winning (BIO); D. Chou (CIS); S. McCracken (CMTA); M. Evett (COSC); L. Kolopajlo (CHEM); D. Crary (ECON); J. Texter (ENGIN TECH); M. Higbee (HIS/PHIL); S. Levine (HPHP); P. Francis (L & C); J. Nims (LIBRARY); D. Barton (MKT); D. Jacobs (PHY/AST); E. Martin (PLS); A. Westman (PSY); R. Orrange (SAC); L. Lee (SPED); C. Haddad (STS); M. Bombyk (SWK); E. Lowenstein; M. Zinggeler (WORLD LANGUAGES)

Ex-Officio: J. Kay (PROVOST)

Guest: S. Martin (EMU PRESIDENT); L. Robinette (Shared governance research, doctoral program at the University of Toledo)

Absent: AAS; ENG; GEO/GEOL; HEALTH SCI; MATH; MGMT; MUSIC & DANCE; NURSING; WGST