

2010

Faculty Senate Minutes, January 6, 2010

Faculty Senate
Eastern Michigan University

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Faculty Senate --- Minutes for meeting of January 6, 2010

1. The agenda was approved with three additions.
2. The minutes of the Dec. 2, 2009 meeting were approved.
3. President Evett reported on the recently completed for a new Chief Information Officer; Carl Powell has been hired.
4. Status of PH & MJ projects/swing space issues. David Crary reported widespread concerns over delays of calling meetings of the Solutions Committee and other matters of timeliness in acting on faculty input and on communicating with faculty members. There are problems with how swing space has been allocated (for instance, run down spaces and some spaces assigned to a department but occupied already by other university offices). D. Jacobs described frustrations in Physics and Astronomy regarding classroom assignments far from that department's instructional-demonstration materials, which are now centrally located and cannot be practically used all over the campus. Assigning rooms to these faculty distant from these materials is a problem. Dr. Neely promised to investigate the issue. Similar concerns regarding the logistics of getting teaching materials to distant classrooms were voiced on behalf of a variety of departments.
5. Motion on "unfreezing" the frozen pay for Administrative-professionals. Mahmud Rahman spoke in favor of the Senate adopting a resolution, as had the University Budget Council, urging that the frozen pay of administrators be unfrozen and retroactively restored. He circulated such a motion by email shortly before the Senate meeting, with hopes that it may be voted on at a future meeting. No logical reason for freezing this one category of University employees; nobody should be singled out for a pay freeze. Others spoke against the motion, saying they saw no clear academic principle being involved. Possibly, it could be seen as an act driven by self-interest, as it is (it was argued) strictly a wage issue. Some urged tabling the motion. One senator suggested alternatively that a motion that urging pay raises for all employee groups to competitive levels would be more in order than the present motion. No action was taken aside from this robust discussion.
6. On behalf of the Graduate Council, Tim Brewer said that there were efforts now underway to secure increased funding for GA's. EMU typically pays GA's very poorly compared to other schools. A motion on this may be forthcoming to the Senate.
7. Motion on having Senate votes on formal Motions to be handled by roll call votes, listing votes by Department. A robust discussion of President Evett's proposal was held. *No action taken.* The goal for the proposal is to increase accountability by Faculty Senators to their home departments.
8. Lidia Lee and Mark Higbee, the Senate's representatives on the former "Retention Council," newly renamed the Student Success Council, reported on the recommendations that the leadership of that body and the Provost's office presented to the Faculty Affairs committee of the Regents at their December meeting. It was noted that the Student Success Council is a very large body, mostly made up of administrators from non-academic divisions; and that EMU's six year's graduation rate is at the very low end of the range for institutions most

like EMU (as measured at CollegeResults.org, sponsored by the Education Sector). Further:

A wish that the recommendations of the Student Success Council be circulated by the Administration to the entire faculty was expressed by members.

Much discussion of the problem was held, but no actions asked for or taken.

9. Pres. Evett reported on having spoken to the Board of Regents at its December meeting; his presentation informed them of the activities of the Senate.
10. Margrit Zinggeler reported on the preparations for the continuous improvement evaluation of senior administrators by faculty members, to be conducted in Feb./March by the Faculty Senate. This project has been underway for some time, and will be done with a confidentiality assured online survey device. Deans will be the first to be evaluated.
11. Prof. Zinggeler also discussed briefly her proposal that a process be established by which EMU could name Honorary Professors from non-EMU faculty; a memo on this was circulated for future discussion.
12. Evett announced that the Faculty Senate's website was being updated and showed its new look to the Senate.
13. Evett noted that the present means by which Executive Board members of the Faculty Senate are selected is archaic, and recommended that a new way be devised and the bylaws amended accordingly.
14. VP for Government Relations search – declared a failure. The job position has been redefined, now to be called Executive Director for Government and Community Relations, and a new search instituted. Marti Bombyk is the senate rep to this search.
15. The Provost and Associate Provost were asked how it was decided to conduct internal searches for the Associate Deans' positions in CAS. Bob Neely said an internal search for such positions has been the usual practice and that Dean Venner believed a national search would be a disservice to the College at this time. The search, chaired by Shawn Quitler from COE, has 3 CAS faculty reps on it, as well as an Associate Dean from COB and a Dept Head from CAS.

Present: J. Myers (ART), J. Eisenbach (BIO), L. Kolopajlo (CHEM), S. McCracken (CMTA), M. Evett (COM SCI), D. Crary (ECON), C. Mayda (G/G), M. Higbee (H&P), Joan Jones (Math), Carter Eggers (MAD), D. Jacobs (PHY & ASTR), E. Martin (POLSCI), L. Tamara (PSYCH), M. Zinggeler (WRLD LANGUAGES), V. Howells (Health Sciences), M. Bombyk (SOC WK), M. Rahman (ACCT & FIN), D. Chou (CIS), P. Francis (LDRP & COU), L. Lee (SPEC ED), E. Lowenstein (TED), J. Texter (Engineering Tech), J. Nims (Library); Tim Brewer (Graduate Council); Jack Kay, Provost and Bob Neey, Associate Provost.

Departments absent: African American Studies, English, SAC, WMGS, HPHP, Nursing, Management, Marketing & Law, Technology Studies.

Guest: Geoff Larcom.

-- Minutes taken by acting Sec'y. Mark Higbee