

2010

Faculty Senate Minutes, February 17, 2010

Faculty Senate
Eastern Michigan University

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UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MINUTES – MEETING TEN

February 17, 2010, 3 – 5 p.m.

310 Student Center

www.emich.edu/facultysenate

faculty_senate@emich.edu

487-0196

I. Approval of the Agenda

Perry Francis moved and David Crary seconded approval of the agenda. It was approved unanimously after the addition of two presentations, one by Karen Busch and one by Margrit Zinggeler.

II. Approval of the Minutes of February 3, 2010

David Crary moved and Daryl Barton seconded the approval of the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved with the addition of IV. H.

III. Voting Procedures According to Robert's Rules – Matt Evett

The default is a voice vote. Anyone can call for a hand vote. More than 50% of the senators need to request a different strategy for it to occur. There was some disagreement about whether the request of a single member is sufficient to invoke a secret ballot. Sally McCracken will look this up and report.

IV. Vote on Whether Programs can Choose Whether a BA or BS Degree is Most Appropriate

The current rule is that any student taking a year of foreign languages gets a BA. This includes students who are majoring in the sciences. At our last meeting Jill Dieterle, chair of the CAS's CAC reported on a motion passed by that body: "*Each academic program should determine the degree type that is appropriate for its graduates (B.A., B.S., etc.). Remove one year of college credit in a foreign language as the distinction between the B.A. and the B.S.*" The Department of World Languages has since unanimously approved this proposal. Jamin Eisenbach moved and Daryl Barton seconded the motion at Faculty Senate, and it was approved unanimously.

V. Faculty Development Center – Karen Busch

The Faculty Development Center promotes teaching/learning, technology, and research. Funding restrictions have limited what Karen Busch can do. Early on, she improved the orientation for new faculty. She also has promoted longer training sessions which continue for one, two, or three terms. She has learned that (a) topics need to be suggested by the faculty rather than by her; (b) faculty need to be reimbursed; (c) politics should be left at the door; and (d) an interdisciplinary approach promotes learning. She is leaving for another job and urges the Faculty Senate to evaluate the direction in which the Faculty Development Center should move.

VI. Student Conduct Review Committee Report – Perry Francis

At the last Faculty Senate meeting, an ad hoc committee was formed. Perry Francis reports that the committee will try to promote academic honesty by students, make resources available to faculty, and work together with the Office of Student Conduct and Community Resources. David Crary added that much information is available on the E.M.U. website but not easy to find, and he would like to create a site which will indicate where to find what.

Marti Bombyk suggested that the University Ombudsman (Greg Peoples) also be included, because students frequently go to him, and he is excellent at helping to resolve conflicts.

Workplace safety issues are part of “working conditions” and, therefore, covered by the contract.

VII. Facilities Committee Report about Campus Safety – David Crary

David Crary talked with Bob Winning who is an alternate to the Facilities Committee. Bob reports that the department heads in Mark Jefferson are working together well enough that the Facilities Committee should function only as a backstop to push harder if needed. On the website under the Board of Regents’ Finance and Facilities Report (<http://www.emich.edu/regents/meeting021610/021610Section17.pdf>) is an excellent list of projects. Some of these were never mentioned, let alone deliberated or voted upon, by the Facilities Committee.

David Crary also recommended that faculty look at the draft Fall schedule that has been sent to the department heads. It tentatively indicates where classes will be held, though these assignments are as yet very preliminary.

Fire extinguishers are sitting on the floor in Mark Jefferson in halls which are only half as wide as normal due to the construction. It is strongly recommended that the fire extinguishers be mounted, so they can be found and no one stumbles over them.

Marti Bombyk indicated that procedures for obtaining videos and equipment are unclear. Randal Baier indicated that he would help solve these procedural problems if people send him an e-mail detailing the problems.

VIII. Resolution from the Parking Committee – Faculty Senate Executive Board

The Faculty Senate applauds the Parking Committee’s efforts in the placement of computerized signage that indicates the number of available parking spaces along Oakwood Street. The Senate supports the implementation of a tiered pricing system for student parking [whereby students who use parking lots which are farther away pay less]. Furthermore, the Senate suggests that the Parking Committee consider the implementation of a cross-campus shuttle (golf carts, etc.) between the North lot, the tower, and central campus. The Senate also recommends that the Parking Committee expand its purview to include all transportation related issues. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Ad hoc Transportation Committee – Ethan Lowenstein

Ethan Lowenstein suggested the formation of an ad hoc committee to develop transportation suggestions. Marti Bombyk volunteered for this committee, and they will ask Chris Mayda to join them.

X. Appointments

A. Search Committee for an IRIM Director.

The search for a director of **IRIM** (Institutional Research and Information Management) involves a national search. David Crary was drafted into serving.

B. Search Committee for a Graduate Dean

Eight people volunteered for four slots. The faculty elected were Tim Brewer (CAS), Joe Bishop (COE), Brenda Reimer (HPHP), and John Texter (COT).

XI. Modification to the By-Laws – Marti Bombyk

Due to time constraints, Marti Bombyk was promised that this would be toward the top of the agenda for the next Faculty Senate meeting.

XII. “Provost’s Minute”: An Opportunity to Interact with the Provost

Provost Kay reported that at the end of the Fall term in 2008, 30% of FTIACs (First Time in Any College) were on probation and 88% stayed at EMU. During the first six weeks of the Fall term of 2009, the Holman Center intervened with e-mails

and other contacts, and at the end of the term 21% of the FTIACs were on probation and 92% stayed at EMU, even though they were similar to the 2008 FTIACs in relevant demographic characteristics. The interventions provide promising approaches to pursue in the future.

Jamin Eisenbach requested that card readers be placed at the large auditorium in Pray-Harrold as the building is being renovated, so that it is easier to know which students are not attending in order to be able to contact them. It also will take money to hire the appropriate personnel for contacting students.

Ethan Lowenstein indicated that many students need writing assistance, and failure to obtain it leads to their dropping out.

XIII. Report from the Budget Council – Mahmud Rahman

Mahmud Rahman indicated again, as he had to the Board of Regents the day before “that DBF [Division of Budget and Finance] should not be setting priorities and goals (by making appropriation decisions). Our academic leaders should be the ones to make such important decisions.” “DBF is primarily responsible for implementing a sound budget to meet our [academic] mission.”

Further, simulations for budget reductions are being done without input by the University Budget Council. A third of the council consists of faculty, and, therefore, any semblance of joint governance is being lost.

Provost Kay responded that he too wanted to preserve both joint governance and maximal funding to Academic Affairs. He indicated that fiscal responsibility demands that he continue with budget planning in academic affairs.

Other points made repeatedly by different faculty members were that the “provost should be the one to lead the budget process,” and that he should take a leadership role at the University Budget Council level. Further EMU has failed to engage in long range budgeting and the data used is usually from a single year rather than a longer period.

The Faculty Senate Executive Board’s motion that “*The Faculty Senate fully supports the actions of, and reforms to, the Budget Council over the past two years. These reforms have greatly increased the transparency of the budgeting process and engendered a larger degree of trust in the decision-making process. The recent actions by the Office of Budget and Finance to request that every division draft contingency budgets containing 3% cuts by-passed the Budget Council. The Faculty Senate urges that the contingency plan of 3% reduction in 2011 budgets for the Division of Academic Affairs be halted immediately until the University Budget Council makes its recommendations. We urge the Chief Financial Officer and the President to return to the processes carefully developed within the BC to plan budgets with strong faculty input and involvement*” passed (18-8-0).

XIV. Dates of the Next Meetings

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

Respectfully submitted,
Alida Westman

Present: R. Woods (AAS); M. Rahman (ACC); J. Eisenbach (BIO); D. Chou (CIS); S. McCracken (CMTA); M. Evett (COSC); D. Cray (ECON); S. Norton (ENGL); J. Texter

(ENGIN TECH); M. Higbee (HIS/PHIL); S. Levine (HPHP); P. Francis (L & C); R. Baier (LIBRARY); K. Banerji (MGMT); D. Barton (MKT); W. Zirk (MUSIC & DANCE); P. Koehn (PHY/AST); A. Westman (PSY); R. Orrange (SAC); V. Howells (SHS); L. Lee (SPED); C. Haddad (STS); M. Bombyk (SWK); E. Lowenstein (TED); S. Gray (WGST); M. Zinggeler (WORLD LANGUAGES)

Ex-Officio: J. Kay (PROVOST & EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT)

Guest: K. Busch (DIRECTOR OF THE FACULTY DEVELOPMENT CENTER); T. Brewer (CHAIR OF GRAD COUNCIL); G. Larcom (COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA RELATIONS); S. Baines Jr. (EASTERN ECHO).

Absent: ART; CHEM; GEO/GEOL; MTH; NURSING; PLS