

2009

Faculty Council Minutes, February 4, 2009

Faculty Council
Eastern Michigan University

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UNIVERSITY FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES – MEETING SEVEN

February 4, 2009, 3 – 5 p.m.

310 Student Center

www.emich.edu/facultycouncil

rlarson@emich.edu

487-0196

I. Call to order

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

II. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously after the addition of items.

III. Approval of the Minutes of January 21, 2009

The minutes were approved with one abstention (22-0-1) after the correction of two capitalizations.

IV. EMU President Susan Martin

1. There are monies from an Economic Stimulus package both in Lansing and at the federal level.

Science and technology are favored in the Economic Stimulus package. The monies differ on whether they are for renovation or new construction. Current shovel-ready renovations include Mark Jefferson and Pray-Harold, and the new building is the science addition. The next renovation will be Strong hall. Federal funding may help with the police station near Hill hall. Money also may be available for the nursing Ph.D. EMU is in constant contact with Representative Dingell to learn about new opportunities.

A new cheaper contract with lobbyists became available. EMU had paid \$5000/month plus expenses, and the new contract is for \$3000/month plus expenses.

2. Credibility in Lansing

In order to reestablish credibility in Lansing, President Martin is frequently in Lansing. She has met the chairs of the House and Senate committees which will decide education appropriations, and they seem very receptive about education.

3. No tuition increase

Governor Granholm contacted the democratic regents and indicated that she does not want to have an increase in tuition. She also indicated this in her State of the State address on Feb 3, 2009. However, the state appropriations are not yet clear.

Governor Granholm will release her budget on Feb. 12. There is concern, because many legislators do not share her view about the importance of education, and the governor did not keep her promise when she asked universities to cap tuition a few years ago.

4. Organization

A. Search for a Provost. The intent is to keep the search committee small. The process to hire a search firm is in progress. The search will move ahead promptly.

B. If an interim Provost is needed, President Martin will consult with the faculty.

C. VP for Communication and other positions.

EMU is weak in its communication. The Buzell-Long report also indicated this. As a result, a position for VP of Communications is being considered. If another structural reorganization turns out to work better, this will be done instead. Community relations also need to be strengthened.

Some positions are being relabeled. The chief fundraiser needs a title and a steady position. He will be referred to as an Executive Director. John Lumm will be

referred to as Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer for the Board of Regents. The title of Associate VP may need to be reconsidered.

5. Reorganization

A. Who reports to whom? Right now too many people report to President Martin, but as she gets to know EMU and positions are stabilized, this will change.

B. Advising, and Career Services have been moved to Academic Affairs. Faculty Council also had recommended this. What is not clear is whether Advising and Career Services should be combined. Also moved to Academic Affairs is the office which deals with disabilities.

C. Planning, Accreditation, and Budget. Planning and outcome should be oriented toward accreditation, and the budget should support such activities.

D. Enrollment, Expenditures. We are very close to stopping a decline in enrollment for Winter term. Enrollment for next Fall looks very good. The FTIAC enrollment is up. The Grad Fair was well attended and led to many applications. Education First also was well attended, as was the Regent Fellowship competition.

6. Answers to Questions from Faculty

A. “No worker left behind” program. The program used to be a state program, but now it is federal, and universities need to show that a degree qualifies for the program. Thereafter there are reporting requirements. EMU is very involved in this program.

B. Why did you not put Diversity under Human Resources? They need access to the president in order to be strengthened.

C. Are you in favor of evaluation of administrators in order to have “Continued Improvement of Administrators”? Yes, the feedback is very helpful. At the U of M—Dearborn, the evaluation was done online.

D. Will EMU join the Climate Commitment? President Martin indicated that she needed to learn about this project before she had an opinion about it.

E. Admission standards. Will they be raised? “We have always been a college of opportunity,” and we need to keep this in mind. Good advising helps students stay in college. Intervening with those who are not prepared for college work has helped many students succeed. Those who cannot succeed can be directed toward another career. This is one argument for combining advising and career services.

High school students with a grade point average below 2.0 have not been admitted for the Fall term. Fewer students with a g.p.a. between 2 and 2.4 have been admitted, whereas those with a g.p.a. of 3.0 or higher have been admitted more frequently.

F. President Martin’s priorities. Stabilize the budget and enrollment, the leadership team, support the strategic plan and assessment. She has no target dates beyond working as hard as possible.

H. “Direct reports” on search committees. It is difficult for *at will* employees to provide information about an internal candidate for a position to which they would report. This process will continue, however, because “This is a new day.”

I. Pray-Harold renovation. There is a concern because one group deals with the first floor and another group with the other floors. Handicapped people especially are finding the entrance on the north side problematic.

J. EMU outreach to community colleges in the Detroit area. Yes, EMU needs to become more visible, and it is the university for the Eastern side of the state.

K. First year experience and weekend experiences are missing. Fusion weekend is attended by only half of the students, but it is a very good experience. A faculty member suggested that Gen Ed courses might be used to help provide first year experiences. With respect to weekends, President Martin mentioned that an effort was made to make available weekend activities at Grand Valley while she was there, so that students felt less lonely and lost. This could be done at EMU also.

V. University Faculty Council President's Report -- Russ Larson

1. Meeting with EMU-AAUP

The meeting went well, and there are a number of noneconomic issues on which EMU-AAUP and University Faculty Council can work together.

2. Provost Search: Election of a Representative. Russ Larson was elected.

3. Meeting with John Lumm is on 2/18/09. Please bring questions.

4. WGST Department Proposed. A proposal to create a Department of Women and Gender Studies was presented and discussed for vote next time.

5. University Strategic Planning write-up will be e-mailed to representatives for feedback.

6. Improved Communication about Facilities. A structure is needed in order to be able to receive and provide information about the facilities, especially as there are changes caused by the construction projects. Provost Loppnow will take this on.

VI. Faculty Council Resolution on Closing the University to Save Energy

Although closing the University on the Friday before classes began saved money, the administration should seriously consider the disruption the closing caused for students and faculty trying to prepare for Winter Term 2009. If future changes in scheduling are being contemplated, they should be undertaken judiciously, and more time should be provided for a smooth beginning for any term so affected. The motion passed 22-0-2.

VII. Bookstore Website and Dropped Book Orders.

The managers will be asked to come to Faculty Council in March. If they cannot run the website effectively, we need to find another option.

VIII. Faculty Council By-Laws Revision

Marti Bombyk presented the revised by-laws. There was not enough time to finish the discussion.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Alida Westman

Present: M. Rahman (ACC); J. Eisenbach (BIO); S. McCracken (CMTA); D. Chou (CIS); M. Evett (COSC); D. Crary (ECON); J. Stein (ENGIN TECH); R. Larson (ENG); V. Howells (Health Sci); M. Higbee (HIS/PHIL); B. Reimer (HPHP); E. Zamani-Gallaher (L & C); J. Nims (Library); D. Barton (MKT); P. Howard (MTH); L. Isenhour (MGMT); J. R. Smith (MUSIC & DANCE); E. Behringer (PHY/AST); E. Martin (PLS); A. Westman (PSY); L. Lee (SPED); M. Bombyk (SWK); P. Becker (TECH STUDIES); E. Lowenstein (TED); S. Simoes (WGST); M. Zinggeler (WORLD LANGUAGES)

Ex-Officio: Don Loppnow (PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VP FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS)

Quests: Susan Martin (PRESIDENT OF EMU); Tim Brewer (CHAIR OF GRADUATE COUNCIL).

Absent: AFS; ART; CHEM; GEO/GEOL; MATH; NURS; SAC