

2009

Faculty Council Minutes, February 18, 2009

Faculty Council
Eastern Michigan University

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UNIVERSITY FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES – MEETING EIGHT

February 18, 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 3:02 p.m.

II. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously.

III. Approval of the Minutes of February 4, 2009

The minutes were approved unanimously after a change in wording from “search committee” to “search firm” in IV. 4. A.

IV. Interim Chief Financial Officer John Lumm

- 1. Financial Market Impacts.** The working capital/reserves of EMU are kept in a safe, liquid form. This means that no money was lost as a result of the banking/market problems; however, returns from this category of funds are low. The Foundation/Endowments did lose money due to the banking/market problems. Further, the bank which helps EMU borrow money received a lower credit rating, and this means that borrowing money has become more expensive. As a result, reevaluation of the bank which helps in the borrowing is necessary.
- 2. Revenues** come from tuition and fees and from state appropriations. The tuition and fees are on track, but the money received from the state will be lower.
- 3. Expenditures** also are on track. It is costing more to borrow money, but both utilities and healthcare expenses are lower.
- 4. Budget for 2009-2010**
 - A. Applications and Retention.** Applications are up, but retention is down. Also the class which matriculated in the Fall of 2008 was smaller than usual, and this means that the decrease in class size is propagated for a few years.
 - B. Freeze of Tuition and Fees.** The governor has requested that tuition and fees be frozen; however, without additional revenues from somewhere, this will be extremely difficult to achieve. EMU is checking the availability of economic stimulus monies both in Lansing and in Washington D.C.
- 5. Questions and Discussion.**
 - A. Pray-Harrold Renovation.** In response to a question, John Lumm indicated that the 42 million is sufficient to do the mechanical and electrical infrastructure. More of the money will be spent on the first floor where IT is located than on classroom renovation.
 - B. Better Communication.** John Lumm agreed that better communication is needed in order to make the best possible decisions.
 - C. What is Covered under “Institutional Support”?** John Lumm acknowledged that he had promised before that he would make this information available and that he failed to do so. He will do so as yet.
 - D. Diversifying Income Streams.** The NCA in 2000 in the Accreditation Report indicated that EMU needed to diversify income streams, for example, including grants, corporate foundations, EMU foundation. John Lumm agreed that diversification is important.

E. Research Grants and Support. Grants can provide income, but there is not enough support for significant grant activities at EMU. This also makes it more difficult to hire faculty who are very serious about obtaining grants.

F. Establishing the Need for More Sections of Classes through Wait Lists.

Wait lists indicate how many people currently would take a course if another section is offered. This is useful information, but currently it seems not to be used.

G. Money Spent on Athletics. Athletics costs EMU approximately 10 million/year plus the athletic scholarships. To be a member of the MAC, currently an institution must have a football program and both a men and women's basketball program. Whether athletics should be in the General Fund completely needs to be discussed. More generally what might be included in designated funds should be discussed.

H. Greater Transparency. John Lumm was thanked for the greater transparency which he has helped promote.

V. Revision of Faculty Council By-Laws -- Marti Bombyk

The revised by-laws were presented at the last meeting, but there had not been enough time to finish the discussion and vote. The revision passed 21-0-1, and the revision will be forwarded for approval by EMU-AAUP and by the administration. Once approved, they will be put onto the Faculty Council website.

VI. Proposal for a Department of Women's and Gender Studies – Kate Mehuron

Kate Mehuron indicated that the WGST program already has the committees which are usual for departments (Personnel, Finances, and Curriculum) and the director has an AP position. Enrollment is up. There are approximately 913 students who take 2754 credit hours, 27 majors, 29 minors, and 14 graduate students. It is difficult for faculty to hold interdepartmental positions, because their home department must evaluate them, and the WGST program cannot be a "home department" until it becomes a department.

The proposal will be voted on at the next Faculty Council meeting.

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

1. Proposal for a WGST department

Matt Evett will make the proposal available electronically. Representatives should direct questions to Linda Pritchard, the Program Director, or Kate Mehuron, the Graduate Coordinator who also has served as director of the program.

The proposal will be voted on at the next Faculty Council meeting.

2. Revenue Sharing Proposal from Athletics.

The proposal will be voted on at the next Faculty Council meeting.

3. Being Proactive in Proposed Goals for EMU.

EMU President Sue Martin indicates that we need to consider what the state and the region need. This is a time during which EMU needs to define its identity and how it can contribute to the region and the state. Representatives are urged to come up with ideas. At the next Faculty Council meeting a list will be created.

4. Graduate School Resolutions on the Graduate School and on Research

These resolutions are to be voted on at the next Faculty Council meeting on March 4. Graduate School Needs to be Preserved. *Graduate Council views the Graduate School as a vital part in the operations of our graduate programs at Eastern Michigan University. A centralized location for the services of graduate education is necessary if our university is to continue its academic mission of excellence in teaching, basic and applied research, and creative and artistic expression to graduate faculty and students. The Graduate School administers many operations*

essential to the development of graduate education, including financial assistance, admission standards, coordination and assistance to graduate coordinators, review of theses and dissertations, human subject review, and academic programming for events such as the Graduate Research Fair. In recent years, Graduate School resources at the university have been significantly reduced. The Council thinks it prudent not to permit more reductions, but if funds become available to increase resources toward Graduate School operations.

Graduate Council Position Statement on Research. *Graduate Council also supports any effort to increase the visibility of our excellent scholarly activity through marketing to enhance its presence in such places as the Web site and in University Publications. Highlighting our activities will expose potential students to our mission of excellence in teaching, basic, and applied research, and creative and artistic expression. Graduate Council views scholarly activity as a vital part of the university's activities. The Council enthusiastically supports efforts through the Provost's Office, the Office of Research Development, and the Faculty Development Center that enhances the research environment at Eastern Michigan University. The Council supports the AQIP proposal to create a mentoring system to support early career faculty which will lead to increased scholarly activities in the form of presentations, papers, and grants. This proposal is essential for our faculty during this time to develop projects that will lead to increased funding and exciting projects in addition to increasing the visibility of our programs to our prospective students.*

- 5. Bookstore Website and Dropped Book Orders.** The managers of the bookstores will come to the next University Faculty Council meeting. Bring questions and suggestions.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Alida Westman

Present: M. Rahman (ACC); M. Peters (AFS); J. Eisenbach (BIO); T. Brewer (CHEM); S. McCracken (CMTA); D. Chou (CIS); M. Evett (COSC); D. Crary (ECON); R. Larson (ENG); M. Higbee (HIS/PHIL); B. Reimer and then S. Levine (HPHP); E. Zamani-Gallaher (L & C); J. Nims (Library); D. Barton (MKT); P. Howard (MATH); L. Isenhour (MGMT); J. R. Smith (MUSIC & DANCE); E. Behringer (PHY/AST); E. Martin (PLS); A. Westman (PSY); R. Orrange (SAC); L. Lee (SPED); M. Bombyk (SWK); P. Becker (TECH STUDIES); S. Simoes (WGST); M. Zinggeler (WORLD LANGUAGES)

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

Quests: John Lumm (CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER); Kate Mehuron (GRADUATE COORDINATOR IN THE WGST PROGRAM, previously DIRECTOR OF WGST), Tim Brewer (CHAIR OF GRADUATE COUNCIL); Jim Carroll (PHY/AST)

Absent: ART; ENGIN TECH; GEO/GEOL; HEALTH SCI; NURS; TED