

2009

Faculty Council Minutes, March 18, 2009

Faculty Council
Eastern Michigan University

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UNIVERSITY FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES – MEETING TEN

March 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 3:06 p.m.

II. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously.

III. Approval of the Minutes of March 4, 2009

The minutes were approved (18-0-2).

IV. Proposal on Shared Revenue from Athletic Events

The goal is to make the budget more transparent and to hold the General Fund harmless if the athletic budget has an overrun. The greater transparency is supported by Chief Financial Officer John Lumm, Provost Don Loppnow, and President Sue Martin. The University Budget Council has not voted on the proposal and would like University Faculty Council input. The proposal passed (18-0-1).

V. Revenue Sharing Proposal from Extended Programs (Previously C.E.)

The proposal was presented at the last meeting by Byron Bond, and the intent is to reach populations not previously reached. A “Program Innovation Fund” will be created to provide financial support and to “hold harmless” departments for taking reasonable risks in their innovative programming. There still is the concern that these new programs will cannibalize old programs. The University Budget Council has not voted on the proposal and would like University Faculty Council input. The proposal passed (21-1-0).

VI. Strategic Priorities for Academic Affairs – Don Loppnow

A. Federal Earmark Money. Four projects have been funded through it. Further, when projects are created and not funded, then other sources are considered, such as peer reviewed sources, so the effort to create a project is very worthwhile.

B. Transparency of the Budget is Critical, as is Transparency in Academic Affairs.

No budget has been proposed yet, but it is important to decide on 3 to 5 parameters to identify strategic needs and 3 to 5 parameters for probably budget reductions. University Faculty Council is asked to suggest these parameters and to meet once or more frequently during the Spring term when the next budget is proposed, so that faculty input on the budget can be secured.

There have been broad-based parameters before, but these were not well operationalized, e.g., “protect foremost what happens in the classroom.”

Representatives are urged to send their suggestions to Russ Larson. He will compile the listing, so that we can talk about the parameters, organize them and forward them to Don Loppnow.

VII. Construction Projects – John Donegan

Mark Jefferson is on schedule and within budget. The sequence of events for the new science complex will mean a limited need for swing space. On the other hand, Pray-Harold has four major zones which will be renovated in turn, and this means that a fourth has to be vacated at a time. Swing spaces have been located in many different buildings.

The renovation of Warren is from separate funding. Specifically, there was money from an insurance claim, a loss of usage claim, and ADA money to install the windows and the ramp. This money had to be spent on Warren and could not be spend elsewhere.

Halle auditorium floods on a regular basis, but this repair is very expensive (about \$4.1 million), and funding currently is not available. Similarly money for an elevator in Ford hall currently is not available. Maintenance of other buildings cannot be overlooked.

VIII. University Faculty Council President's Report – Russ Larson

A. Search for a Provost

The plan is to proceed this term if an adequate pool can be gathered. This plan was approved by University Faculty Council and members endorsed it again today. When there are at least 8 or 10 viable candidates, they will be interviewed by phone rather than at the airport. The best 3 or 4 will be brought to campus during final's week on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and perhaps Friday. On Tuesday is a meeting of the Board of Regents.

Please send feedback to Russ Larson. He can speak to us but not to the mass media. He also cannot provide details on specific candidates except for the candidates who are invited to campus.

B. Elections of Officers

Nominated were Matt Evett for President, Mahmud Rahman and Mark Higbee for Vice-President, Alida Westman for Secretary, and David Crary for Membership Coordinator. More people can be nominated at the next meeting on April 1, and then there will be a vote.

IX. General Education – Matt Evett and Mark Higbee

The committee has not finished all they would like to investigate. They ask for a postponement of their report to Fall 2009. The intent is to suggest alternatives rather than redesign the program. There are questions about how Learning Beyond the Classroom is to be assessed. Some departments are represented in all areas, so that students can get all of their General Education courses from a single department. How courses are vetted also will be explored.

X. Course Management Presentations – Matt Evett and Pam Becker

Except for this coming Monday, on successive Mondays and Wednesdays vendors will be coming to present their software. The general session is from 9 to 10:30, and this session does not assume technical knowledge. Then follows a presentation for technologically skilled individuals, and the committee will meet with the vendors from 2 to 5 p.m. Which university uses which vendor also will be investigated.

The remainder of the e-fellow money will be used to teach technology in the classroom during the Spring term. There will be an informational session in the morning and a workshop in the afternoon.

XI. 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); R. Larson (ENG); C. Mayda (GEO/GEOL); M. Higbee (HIS/PHIL); E. Zamani-Gallaher (L & C); J. Nims (Library); D. Barton (MKT); P. Howard (MATH); L. Isenhour (MGMT); J. R. Smith (MUSIC & DANCE); J. Carroll (PHY/AST); A. Westman (PSY); R. Orrange (SAC); L. Lee (SPED); M. Bombyk (SWK); P. Becker (TECH STUDIES); M. Zingeler (WORLD LANGUAGES)
Ex-Officio: Don Loppnow (PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VP FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS)
Quests: John Donegan (ASSOCIATE VP OF FACILITIES); Scott Storrar (MANAGER OF FACILITIES RESTORATION AND CONSTRUCTION); Tom Brewer (CHAIR OF GRADUATE COUNCIL)
Absent: AFS; ART; CHEM; ENGIN TECH; HPHP; HEALTH SCI; NURS; PLS; TED; WGST