

2009

Faculty Council Minutes, April 1, 2009

Faculty Council
Eastern Michigan University

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UNIVERSITY FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES – MEETING ELEVEN

April 1, 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

Items were added to the agenda, and the amended agenda was approved unanimously.

III. Approval of the Minutes of March 18, 2009

The minutes were approved (22-0-1).

IV. Election of the Next Faculty Council President

Matt Evett was elected by unanimous acclamation.

V. Appointments

A representative is needed for the Nonacademic IT Committee. The issues concern Banner, registration, advisor's access to transcripts, and anything else not directly related to the classroom.

VI. Course Management: Matt Evett

Six different companies are demonstrating their products. This includes the two companies (Blackboard and e-College) whose products are being used currently. The best product(s) will be explored with respect to the cost of moving materials to it and the amount of materials which will be moved, for example, from the last 2 or 15 years. The amount of work involved also will be considered. The target is to have the migration finished by Fall 2010. Comments, questions, etc. should be addressed to Matt Evett or Wade Tornquist.

VII. Program Review – Lidia Lee and Jean McEneary

Goal 3 of the Higher Learning Commission needs to be stressed, because it deals with the central issues of teaching and learning. Assessment should consist of examining student outcomes, and, if needed, programs should be revised based on this assessment. Right now this critical information is buried in the Program Review. Further, if programs have external accreditation, then the information gathered for it should be given more prominence.

Instead of asking for the goals and mission of each program and department, it makes more sense to ask how the program(s) and department fit the university's mission. Some of the questions currently asked are inappropriate; for example, a department cannot answer questions about the financial aid office. The data provided are problematic, and the amount of work to complete a program review is enormous. Engine Tech's document has become more than 270 pages long. The promised improvement in technology has not happened.

Russ Larson will send out the report, and at the next Faculty Council meeting the report will be voted upon. Ethan Lowenstein will write a resolution which will be part of a cover letter for this report as it is sent to the provost.

Bob Neely indicated that a mini-accelerated, modified Program Review already was being executed as part of AQIP.

VIII. Enrollment Information – Bernice Lindke

Enrollment for Fall 09 shows that the Honors College has a full complement. Two additional scholarship events were added to attract students. Scholarships usually are very helpful in attracting students; however, the Eagle Scholarships of \$1500 are not having the impact that they used to have. Perhaps the amount is insufficient, given the current state of the economy.

To understand better who is coming to EMU, Bernice Lindke indicated that she would make available a frequency distribution of ACT scores for FTIACs (First Time In Any College), instead of just indicating the average ACT score. Further, the earlier ACT scores need to be put into context, because scholarship recipients tend to register earlier.

Fast Track is down about 140 from 2 years ago and up about 140 from last year which was an atypical year. More students are coming from Ohio again, and this is good news for the residence halls. The number of graduate students is up. The Graduate Fair was very successful. The number of transfers is up, and EMU is higher than the national average on transfers (63% to about 40%). Also we have more nontraditional students than the national average (57% to 32%). Today Return-to-Learn students are on campus. There also are meetings with potential students at other sites. Students are looking for advising at times which fit their schedules better, for example, Saturday afternoon. Also many more would like to know what will transfer before they decide where to go.

Faculty and departments can help by contacting those who are procrastinating in their registration and by contacting those who intent to register in the major(s) offered by the department. The registrar will be sending out this information soon.

There is better academic advising for students who are not doing well, and this personal interaction can be very helpful for keeping the student on track.

IX. Faculty Council President Report – Russ Larson

A. Provost Search.

The search is going forward. There are slightly fewer than twenty serious candidates. Some of them come from small colleges, and this is a concern; EMU is large, complex, and very heterogeneous. Also some of the candidates may be “past their prime.” There currently are no internal candidates. The intent is to have the candidates on campus during final’s week of this term.

B. Questions for the Provost Candidates

Russ Larson is collecting questions from faculty, lecturers, and EMU-AAUP.

C. Budget Parameters for FY10

No information was forwarded to Russ Larson

D. Meeting with AAUP on April 17

Continuous Improvement of Administrators and Phased Retirements are considered.

E. April 15 Faculty Council Meeting

a. Mark Byrd and the manager of the EMU Bookstore. They will be asked to come to talk about the improvements in the book ordering system which has been achieved, and what the current process is.

b. Graduate Council Position Statement on the Graduate School

This will be voted on.

c. Changing the “E” grade to an “F” grade.

Given the use of the E by Eastern and the fact that an F frequently indicates a failing grade, Donna Bobcean from Registration presented a proposal to change the E grade to an F grade. This proposal will be voted on this coming meeting. A straw vote today was 18-0-3.

d. EMU President Sue Martin is coming.

Representatives are asked to collect questions for her visit.

e. Lack of Clarity of the Budget

EMU’s budget is not clear, because the money from the state is not clear. Further, stimulus money may be forwarded to the universities, but this may

mean that the budget cannot be reduced, because otherwise the stimulus money would not be extra. If so, next year's budget may be artificially high.

X. 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); W. Tucker (ENGIN TECH); C. Mayda (GEO/GEOL); M. Higbee (HIS/PHIL); S. Levine (HPPH); V. Howells (HEALTH SCI); 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); Pam Becker (TECH STUDIES); E. Lowenstein (TED); S. Simoes (WGST); M. Zinggeler (WORLD LANGUAGES)

Ex-Officio: Bob Neely (ASSOC PROVOST AND ASSOCIATE VP FOR RESEARCH);

Quests: Bernice Lindke (INTERIM VP OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT SERVICES); Jean McEnery (MANAGEMENT); Donna Bobcean (STUDENT, RECORD & REGISTRATION); Tom Brewer (CHAIR OF GRADUATE COUNCIL)

Absent: AFS; ART; CHEM; L & C; NURS; PLS; SWK