

2005

Faculty Council Minutes, September 7, 2005

Faculty Council
Eastern Michigan University

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UNIVERSITY FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES – MEETING ONE

September 7, 2005, 3 – 5 p.m.

Tower Room, McKenny Union

104 Pierce Hall Faculty.council@emich.edu 487-0196

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

II. Introduction of People Present

Individuals introduced themselves.

III. Approval of the Minutes of June 1, 2005

The minutes were approved with 4 abstentions.

IV. Election Of Vice President and Secretary

A. Matt Evett was unanimously elected as vice-president.

B. Alida Westman was unanimously reelected as secretary.

V. Committee Appointments – Ratifications

A. Howard Bunsis was unanimously ratified as NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative

B. Daryl Barton was unanimously ratified as faculty representative to the Search Committee for a Vice-President for Advancement

VI. Guest: President Fallon

President Fallon indicated that he had spent time getting to know students and faculty, begun mending fences in Lansing and had been to Washington D.C. to explore funding opportunities. He was delighted that the Board of Regents made the decision to use 4% of the tuition increase to enhance the facilities; however, bonds and fund raising also will be needed to accomplish the repair and updating of Pray-Harrold and Mark Jefferson. Specifically, one percent of tuition raises about 1.1 million dollars, but the repair and updating of Pray-Harrold is estimated to cost about 52 million and of Mark Jefferson about double this amount.

President Fallon indicated that he appreciates candid, bare-knuckle discussions. In answering questions, he indicated that he too would appreciate more transparency in the budget and that he would not object to having the budget posted on the website. The amount of money involved in the repair and updating of Pray-Harrold and Mark Jefferson makes it very clear that long term financial planning is essential. Currently the position of Vice-president for Business and Finance is unfilled, but there are no plans to fill this position soon, because the team in place has the president's support and for new people the learning curve is very steep.

President Fallon believes that the Board of Regents in their 12-point plan did not move beyond setting policy to micromanaging. He personally did not react to the 12-point plan as forgetting about research and faculty, rather he is looking for a clearer direction than is offered by the Mission Statement. He is concerned that there are no shared goals which are motivating and guiding the actions at EMU. The emphasis on athletics in the 12-point plan came about for two reasons. Alumni consider athletics to be important. Further, having been a student athlete himself, President Fallon indicated that he sees athletics as an important

way for students to learn to be competitive and to think in terms of winning. There are several concerns. Specifically, it is not clear whether athletics can become self-supporting and the data indicate that the amount of money spent on athletic scholarships is disproportionately larger than the money spent on academic ones.

Dismay was expressed about the expensive handout for the CAS meeting on September 6, 2005. The handout was seen as using resources which could have been spent better. Individuals indicated that these were leftovers and not newly acquired materials.

When the Marshall building opened, it was believed to be a state of the art building and yet within a couple of years it no longer was. Moreover, energy is becoming much more expensive, and energy interruptions may happen. After listening to these ideas, President Fallon invited faculty to form a task force, perhaps with APs, to consider energy conservation and devise classroom buildings which are distinctive and promote EMU's image.

Representatives expressed deep appreciation that President Fallon was willing to meet with us and carefully listen to what we had to say.

VII. Report by Interim Provost Don Loppnow

Provost Loppnow indicated that he had found input from Faculty Council very helpful, and that he intends to come to at least the first hour of Faculty Council meetings. During the summer, Gen Ed training and workshops took place, and the course vetting process is about to begin. The result should be a Gen Ed program which has more appeal to students. Similarly the Honors College is being strengthened by looking for ways to have more diversity of students, in part by offering more financial help to individuals who are very capable but who do not have the financial resources to engage in the Honors College life.

The incoming class has more students with higher grade point averages. There has been a 17% increase in individuals with a grade point average of 3.00 or better and an 8% increase of students with a grade point average of 3.50 or better. Improving the number of students with better credentials continues to be a goal of enrollment services.

In October, a group of 12 people will go to Chicago in order to present and get feedback on proposed AQIP projects. The results of the meeting will be presented to Faculty Council.

FACULTY ARE NEEDED FOR THREE COMMITTEES.

- A. Administrative Realignment Task Force; Bob Neely, chair; report due April 1, 2006, for implementation by July 2006.
The intent is to put together programs which fit together, to save money as a result of the reorganization, and to permit interdisciplinary appointments.
Two faculty from CAS are needed and one from each of the other colleges. Another 8 individuals will be appointed by the Provost.
- B. Centralized Classroom and Course Scheduling Task Force; work to be done this Fall term.
The intent is to find a procedure to have the schedule set about 18 months in advance, so that students can plan ahead, and to distribute physical

space better. Right now, the departments having their own classrooms, and this is not working out. Sometimes there are empty classrooms which are better than the classrooms being used. **Two faculty from CAS are needed and one from each of the other colleges.** Another 9 individuals will be appointed by the Provost.

- C. Retention of undergraduate students; Gersham Nelson, chair
The intent is to analyze retention and find ways to improve retention. **Two faculty from CAS are needed and one from each of the other colleges. This is an excellent committee for young faculty who may have new ideas about the expectations which incoming students have.**
- D. Reactions and questions.

The provost was thanked for his willingness to listen to faculty and to present plans for looking at specific issues with faculty input.

With respect to the reorganization, representatives indicated that they were very concerned that the reorganization involves only Academic Affairs when the data indicate that there has been a tremendous growth in administrative personnel as the number of faculty has decreased. Reorganization needs to go beyond Academic Affairs. Further, the attempt to reorganize might backfire and cost more money, for example, it might become clear that the English Department would function better if it were split into more departments. Members on the reorganization committee will need to be able to think very creatively. EMU has not been successful in having interdisciplinary programs or team-taught courses, and yet these types of programs and courses continue to have great appeal. There may be replication across programs and colleges which results in unnecessary competition and waste of resources, so that reconceptualization and realignment might permit new programming which would respond better to changing realities.

VIII. Campus Leadership Council

President Fallon has created a smaller "Cabinet" referred to as the Strategic Operations Council. He also has created a 25 member Leadership Council consisting of 1 faculty representative, 2 students, and close to two dozen APs. Daryl Barton asked to be ratified as the faculty representative. The ratification was unanimous. Further, the Faculty Council Vice-President, Matt Evett, was unanimously ratified as the alternate of the Faculty Council President for any meetings which the Faculty Council President does not attend.

- IX. **Update on Alcohol and Other Drug Use Committee – Michael Paciorek**
This week the *Echo* will indicate the new policy with respect to buildings and clarify when university policies apply. Specifically, smokers are to be at least 25 feet from any building, and university policy applies whenever students are representing the university, including at conferences.
- X. **Update on UTAC -- Computer Refresh and Technology Fees -- postponed**
- XI. **Update on the Parking Committee – Sandra Nelson**
 - A. **July 15**

- a. The city of Ypsilanti will tow any car parked on streets around EMU without a valid residential parking permit or visitor pass.
- b. Administrative Professional's (APs) were ordered by the Board of Regents to pay for their own parking spot (\$104) even if they have a premium spot. They also need to pay for the premium spot.
- c. Commuter/resident parking hang tag will increase from \$65 to \$75.
- d. The Pease Lot is being repaved.

B. August 5

- a. The premium spots will remain at \$480.
- b. The Old Alexander/Finance Building land will remain vacant and without parking lot.

C. Next meeting is on September 30

XII. Announcements

- **Faculty Study Rooms in Halle Library.**
There still are study rooms available on a semester and on a daily basis. Contact Mary Murphy (mary.murphy@emich.edu).
- **Date: United Way of Caring – September 15**
- The **second Faculty Council** meeting for the 2005-2006 Academic Year will be held on September 21, 2005, 3 – 5 p.m., in the Tower Room of McKenny Union.
- The **second** Faculty Council Executive Board (FCEB) meeting will be held on September 14, 2005, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Faculty Council Office, 104 Pierce Hall.
- Please read your e-mail regularly. It is the primary method of communication regarding upcoming Faculty Council meetings and announcements. Please reduce your accumulated e-mails and empty your trash; otherwise an OVERQUOTA message will appear, and you will not receive current materials.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alida Westman

Present: M. Rahman (ACC); V. Okafor (AFS); M. Coffman (BIOL); S. McCracken (CTA); M. Evett (COSC); D. Crary (ECON); S. Krause (ENGL); M. Zinggeler (FLABS); C. Mayda (GEO/GEOL); M. Paciorek (HHP); D. Clifford (HEALTH SCI); C. Haddad (TECH STUDIES); G. Mitchell (ENGIN TECH); E. Broughton (L & C); L. Shirato (HALLE); R. Hill (MGMT); D. Barton (MKT); J. Jones (MATH); J. R. Smith (MUS/DANCE); J. Porter (PHY/AST); A. Westman (PSY); R. Orrange (SAC); M. Bombyk (SWK); L. Lee (SPED); M. McCormack (TED); S. Norton (WMST).

Ex-Officio: D. Loppnow (INTERIM PROVOST AND V.P. OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS); N. Contas (ASSISTANT V.P. OF ACADEMIC SERVICES)

Guests: J. Fallon (PRESIDENT OF EMU); R. Murkowski (PRESIDENT OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT).

Absent: ART; CHEM; CIS; HIST/PHIL; NURS; PLS