

2006

Faculty Council Minutes, October 18, 2006

Faculty Council
Eastern Michigan University

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UNIVERSITY FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES – MEETING TWO

October 18, 2006, 3 – 5 p.m.

Fifth Floor REC/IM Building

www.emich.edu/facultycouncil

daryl.barton@emich.edu

487-0196

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:03

II. Approval of the Minutes of October 4, 2006

The minutes were approved with some corrections.

III. Committee Appointments

A. Search Committee – Associate VP for Academic Issues

Mahmud Rahman (COB) was unanimously elected. (Mark Higbee from CAS was elected at a prior meeting.)

B. USLRC

David Kass (CAS: BIO) and Paul Chao (COB: Marketing) were unanimously elected.

The Department Head from Biology also is on the committee. It is hoped that the appointment of department heads will be made or adjusted such that there is no department head and faculty member from the same department on the committee. D. Barton will make Deb deLaski-Smith aware of the dual representation by biology.

C. Academic Affairs Facilities Planning Advisory Committee

Elizabeth Bucciarelli (Library), Stu Tubbs (COB), and Michael Williams (CHHS) were unanimously appointed.

IV. Bob Neely – Interim Associate Vice-President for Research

The FRF timelines for this transitional year still will have only one set of dates rather than the two indicated in the new guidelines. The applications are due at the department on Feb 1, the college on Feb 15, and URSLC on March 15. Recommendations will be sent to the Provost on April 7, and applicants/recipients will be notified by April 10.

V. Guest: Jennifer Tremewan – Student Financial Services

Faculty commented that students frequently are urged to take more courses than they can or need to take if they also are working, and this is setting them up for failure. Undergraduates need to be enrolled for at least 6 credit hours and graduates for at least 4 hours. Satisfactory Academic Progress requires 2.0 overall g.p.a. for undergraduates and 3.0 for graduate students, and students must pass and complete 67% of courses attempted. If students fall below either the requirement for g.p.a. or the rate of course completion, they begin a maximum of three pre-cancellation semesters. Students can appeal cancellation or apply for additional hours if these are needed to graduate.

For the completion rate, “I”s can be completed and lead to a better rate than “w”s.

ServiceEMU is an inperson facility with people trained to help with financial aids, records and registration.

VI. Guest: Freman Hendrix – Chief Government Relations and Special Projects Officer

Mr. Hendrix indicated that he is an alumnus of EMU and very committed to the institution.

He indicated that there has been far too little communication at EMU. Different groups should get together in and away from the workplace in order to discuss issues, and to promote mutual understanding and cooperation. He suggested that a group of people from Faculty Council meet with the regents, but this suggestion was seen as inappropriate until such time as there is a contract for the faculty, and until such time the regents should get together with representatives from the union.

Mr. Hendrix indicated that Governor Granholm has advocated for education and that this influences the legislature. The allegiances of legislators and political factors influence appropriations. At the moment, money for Pray-Harrold is part of a capital outlay bill, and a Vote of No Confidence of the regents, or any other negative publicity, puts this money in jeopardy.

He also indicated that the retention of Dykema is based on the money which they can secure for EMU and not on the "union free" environment which they help promote.

Faculty pointed out that we cannot attract or keep quality faculty at EMU with the current rate of pay, that EMU is acquiring a reputation of not being a good place to work, and that negotiations are not possible when one side decides to walk away.

Faculty asked, and Mr. Hendrix indicated, that he would find out how much money EMU is spending on lobbying and public relations.

VII. Vote of No Confidence

Before any discussion, a straw vote on the original write-up of the Vote of No Confidence passed 21-6-3. Subsequent discussion revealed consensus that there is a pattern of decisions by the Board of Regents which indicates that the Board has lost sight of the academic mission of EMU, and that this needs to stay the focus of the write-up and communication with the regents. Disagreements concerned the specific write-up and the timing of the Vote of No Confidence. The subsequent discussion led to a motion which passed and indicated that (a) the write-up be rewritten with the final paragraph as the first main paragraph affirming the centrality of the academic mission of EMU, (b) that there should be a vote at the next meeting on whether to pass resolutions with a possible Vote of No Confidence at a later date, or currently have a Vote of No Confidence, and (c) specific concerns and remedies need to be spelled out, so that it is possible at a later date to check whether progress has been made or not. The concerns about failures to support the academic mission of EMU are independent of when a new contract is achieved.

Specifically, there is a concern about the timing of the Vote of No Confidence. It would be safer to have it after the November election, assuming that Governor Granholm is reelected, or after the money for Pray-Harrold has been received by EMU. With respect to the write-up, some felt that the statement was too strong, and others thought it was too weak. The first item listed was seen as derogatory of part-timers and this comment along with others already were incorporated in an edited draft of the letter. Some of the items on the write-up were seen as not specific enough, e.g., an

example of micromanaging needs to be included. Some of the items were seen as whining without further justification being provided, e.g., the consequence of the parking problem for the ability of students and faculty to come to class and get to meetings needs to be pointed out to have this issue be meaningful. Some indicated that the representatives could vote on a resolution, whereas others indicated that the faculty members should vote individually or be polled in the same way in all departments/schools.

VIII. Announcements

- A.** University Faculty Council is funding a scholarship. Please contribute to it. **UFC Leadership Scholarship** – Account #R16236
- B. Protecting your valuables.** For \$15.-, you can buy a security imprint for each valuable which you own, such as a laptop computer and have it registered in a worldwide data base to help locate and retrieve it should it be lost or stolen

IX. Future Meetings and Locations.

- C.** The **Fourth UFC** meeting for the 2006-2007 academic year will be held on November 1, 2006, 3 to 5 p.m. in 300 Halle Library.
- D.** The **Third UFC Executive Board** meeting will be held on October 25, 2006, in the University Faculty Council office.
- E. Please make sure that you read your e-mail** regularly. It is the primary method of communication regarding upcoming Faculty Council meetings and announcements. Please reduce your accumulated e-mail; otherwise, OVERQUOTA will appear, and you will not receive current materials.
- F.** University Faculty Council minutes, documents, committee reports, etc., are now posted on the website, www.emich.edu/facultycouncil
- G. Where UFC will meet 2006-2007:**
 - November 1: 300 Halle
 - November 15: new Student Center (Room TBA)
 - December 6: fifth floor of the REC IM building
 - January 17 and thereafter: new Student Center (Room TBA).

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alida Westman

Present: M. Rahman (ACC); V. Okafor (AFS); M. Reedy (ART); M. Coffman (BIOL); R. Nord (CHEM); S. McCracken (CTA); I. Ahmad (CIS); S. Hayes (COSC); D. Crary (ECON); T. Shay (ENGIN TECH); R. Larsen (ENG); M. Zinggeler/C. Day (FLABS); S. Rutherford (GEO/GEOLOG); L. Watson (HIS/PHIL); D. Clifford (HEALTH SCI); S. Levine (HHP); E. Boughton (L & C); L. Klopfer (Library); K. Banerji (MGMT); D. Barton (MKT); J. C. Jones (MATH); J. R. Smith (MUS/DANCE); G. Rubenfeld (NURS); E. Behringer (PHY/AST); A. Lottie (PLS); A. Westman (PSY); R. Orrange (SAC); M. Bombyk (SWK); P. Williams-Boyd (TED); P. Becker (TECH STUDIES); S. Norton (WMST)

Provost's Office: Bob Neely (INTERIM ASSOCIATE PROVOST FOR RESEARCH)

Guests: Freman Hendrix (CHIEF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS OFFICER); J. Tremewan (STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES)

Absent: SPED