

2014

Faculty Senate Minutes, February 19, 2014

Faculty Senate
Eastern Michigan University

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APPROVED Minutes for Faculty Senate Meeting

February 19, 2014

3:00-5:00, SC 310A

Attendance: S. Norton (ENG), B. Jones (AAUP), M. Peters (AAS), J. Demarte (Art), J. Eisenbach (Bio), D. Chou (CIS), R. Quiel (CMTA), Z. Bahorski (CS), S. Hayworth (Econ), J. ? (sp?) (Eng Tech), Z. Moore (G&G), M. Bluhm (HS), J. Koolage (H&P), K. Woodiel (H&P), P. Francis (L&C), D. Barton (M&L), G. Dumitrascu (Math), D. Foster (M&D), E. Behringer (P&A), K. Rusiniak (Psych), R. Orrange (SAC), M. Wedenoja (SW), P. Smith (Spc Ed), A. Coykendall (WGST), M. Zinggeler (WL), R. Baier (Lib), K. Banerji (Mgmt), J. Kullberg (PS), M. McVey (T Ed), P. Majeske (Tech Std), P. Trewn (NURS)

1. Agenda approved – unanimous
2. Amended minutes for 2/5/2014 approved – approved with 3 abstentions
3. Committee Reports
 - a. Academic Issues: General Education Review Committee (Judith Kullberg and John Koolage)
 - Koolage – GERC has new data from IRIM; next meeting is dedicated to putting together a faculty questionnaire; we have a website where our work is gathered:
http://www.emich.edu/academic-student-affairs/gened_review/index.php
 - Kullberg – the International Center soldiers on
 - b. Faculty Senate Budget Committee (Mahmud Rahman)
 - No report this week
 - c. Institutional Issues: LMS Selection Committee (Daryl Barton & Randal Baier)
 - LMS selection is moving forward at full clip; the questionnaire is due in the near future; a sandbox for each potential LMS is being set up for faculty feedback; each department will be given an opportunity in the sandboxes; the recommendation to the Provost will be given by the 3rd week of April
 - Some discussion regarding the distribution of sandbox opportunities
 - d. Technology Issues (Zenia Bahorski)
 - (i) Computer Refresh
 - No report
 - (ii) AUP
 - Current AUP circulated. (Hard copy available.)
 - Process points: peer documents consulted, AAUP lawyers consulted, and blood, sweat, and tears

- New highlight of the AUP: (1) protects academic freedom by stipulating certain privacy processes – this will be circulated electronically by way of the Faculty Senate President in the next week or so, (2) “authorized users for authorized activity” of section 4, suggested by the AAUP lawyer, removes the main worries about the last version
 - This constitutes the first reading of the AUP
4. President Martin on ISPC
- EMU Strategic Plan (document circulated)
 - Mission, Vision, Core Values has been approved
 - Strategic Themes have been developed
 - Faculty input is being sought on Goals and Objectives
 - Faculty are being asked to think about action items for the various objectives – suggestions welcome
 - A website exists regarding all these matters: <http://www.emich.edu/strategicplan/>
 - Concerns regarding feedback were raised; the basic issue was whether or not there would any obvious link between the Strategic Plan and action items/implemented
 - Concern: where does the feedback go? For example: change “awareness” to “knowledge” in the second sentence of the Mission. A second example: there’s a need to include “service” in the Mission. Third example: no apparent mention of “critical thinking.”
 - Discussion regarding the above highlighted the need for the document to be a “living” document, the fact that Mission, Vision, Values was approved some time ago
5. New business: New faculty hires
- Not discussed
6. Committee appointments
- a. Task Force on Developing the Productive Learning Environment
- There was some significant discussion regarding the purpose of this committee and what “Productive Learning Environment” means
 - Suggestion regarding how to title the task force; perhaps “Peaceful Interactions on Campus” or “Civility” not “Learning Environment”
 - MOTION: Postpone voting on this task force until there is some clarification on the task of the task force – unanimous
 - Request for the charge of the committee to help clarify its purpose
 - Discussion regarding the formation of a Senate committee on harassment and related issues
- b. Faculty Advisory Committee on New Hires

- There are concerns about whether the input of this committee would be of any utility; a transparency goal may be worthwhile, even if the “input” had no real impact
- This committee is purely advisory; administration controls final decisions on resources
- MOTION: table for next meeting, due to the low number of applicants and late call for applications – unanimous

7. Provost’s remarks

- Congressman Dingell is visiting campus! He’s talking about voter rights with student leaders.
<http://www.emich.edu/univcomm/releases/release.php?id=1243945985>
- Budget planning is in full swing.
- Good news: 400 more graduates than the model projected this Winter! Bad news: we have fewer students than we’d expected. Additional bad news: we had lower enrollment than usual for Winter. There’s anecdotal evidence that the violence off campus, particularly in October, hurt our numbers; safety is an issue. The Provost’s Office is working on community safety; though, safety on campus continues to be very good (some numbers offered, but too quick to be recorded).
- Some discussion of the partnering with Ypsilanti to help resolve these violence issues in the neighboring areas; some discussion regarding the expanding of the campus police force’s purview
- Question regarding the new “timely warning rules” and the perceived versus actual change in “crime rates”
- Projections have us at a student population that is 550 students fewer than expected for next year
- Some discussion of parking on campus
- Concerns regarding EAA were raised; the Provost became a member of the EAA board in January, but the first meeting is in March; the Provost has prepared a long list of concerns to bring to the March meeting; today, there was a State release on EAA, <http://www.newsdaily.com/united-states/eea14b7ca15700675e483e643773b399/mich-wont-let-only-eea-handle-school-turnarounds> (this is just the first link I found, not any sort of endorsement for the site it comes from)

8. President’s remarks: University committee membership

- (i) Membership secretary: Abby Coykendall--
membership_sec@emich.edu *
- (ii) Reviewing website:
www.emich.edu/facultysenate/committee *

9. Adjournment

Faculty Senate Ballot

2/19/2014

Task Force on Developing the Productive Learning Environment at EMU (4 faculty representatives, any college):

The Provost is creating the task force to study and find ways to develop an even more productive and dynamic learning environment on campus. Members will particularly look at procedures to ensure the comfort and safety of staff, students, and instructional staff in their various interactions and in the creation of the classroom as learning community. The committee will study many procedures already in place at Eastern that may need to be more clearly articulated and widely communicated among the campus community, as well as recommend possible new procedures.

Faculty Advisory Committee on New Hires (2 from CAS, 1 from each of the other colleges, 1 from LIB):

The Senate is establishing a committee of faculty to act in an advisory capacity to the Provost in the ranking of new faculty hires.