

1-29-2020

## **Faculty Senate Minutes, January 29, 2020**

Faculty Senate

**Eastern Michigan University**  
***Faculty Senate Minutes (approved 2/12/20)***

**Session 9**

3.00—5.00 pm January 29, 2020 270 Student Center

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**Present:** Pressley-Sanon, Reedy, Winning, Carter, Evett, Hayworth, Neufeld, Welsh, McMahon, Curran, Peavler, Pawlowski, Patrick, Waltz, Corsianos, Goodman, Millan, Spragg, Mistry, Trewn, Saldanha, Rahman, Chou, Banerji, Barton, Leon, Lee, McVey, Amsaad, Braun Marks.

**Non-voting Present:** Gray, Longworth, Tew, Kullberg, Carpenter.

- I. **Call to Order** 3:03 pm
- II. **Approval of the Agenda** 3:04 pm  
Motion: Pressley-Sanon. Motion carries.
- III. **Approval of the Minutes: 1-15-2020\*** 3:04 pm  
Motion: McVey. Second: Barton. Abstentions: 5. Motion carries.
- IV. **Elections** 3:07pm
- A. Public Safety Oversight Committee- One representative and one alternate\*  
Motion to approve primary vote getter as the representative and second as the alternate:  
Pressley-Sanon, Second: Waltz. Motion carries.  
Appointed Daryl Barton, COB, as representative by ballot election.  
Appointed Steven Francoeur, CAS, as alternate by ballot election.
- B. Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory Committee (IAAC)- Two at-large, and one COB  
No additional nominations received from the floor.  
Motion to approve the following nominees by acclamation Sue Martin for COB and Tony Moreno for at-large:  
Barton. Second: Carter. Motion carries.
- V. **Discussions**
- A. Update - Scott Wetherbee, VP Intercollegiate Athletics\* 3:11 pm  
Wetherbee reported on updates over the last 2 years (last visit to Senate was January 2018).
- Branding – feels that the branding of athletics has improved the image of the university. (Champions for life theme). There are three priorities for student-athletes: doing well in the classroom, doing well in the community, doing well in competition.
  - Reviewed changes in numbers: 83% graduation rate in 2018 now 84%, average GPA was 3.15 now 3.25. Previously 35 4.0 students, now 47. In 2018 student-athletes completed 3500 community service hours, over 7000 now. Won 10 MAC championships, football team went to 2 back to back bowl games.
  - Goals of the athletic department: Help the university get better every day. Retain more students. Increase enrollment. Use athletics to tell a story about the university and inform others about good things happening at the university through use of the ESPN and CBS sports platforms. Works with Walter Kraft and Geoff Larcom to tell stories about campus at athletic events.
  - Title IX: goal is to be within 1.8% of proportionality of student body population represented in athletics.
  - Regarding replacement of women’s softball with lacrosse: Softball had a much higher budget (about \$900,000) where the estimated budget for Lacrosse is \$600-650,000. In addition, there will continue to be 12 scholarships, but lacrosse can have 35 student-athletes, which improves the proportion.

- No other changes to athletic team offerings. Currently, NCAA requires that there are at least 6 men's teams, and we have 7. Settlement requires that no women's teams be eliminated.
- Operating budget in 2018 was 20 million. Current budget is 17.7 million. Scholarships are \$9.2 million.
- Ticket sales have increased for football and basketball. Licensing agreements have also increased.
- Barton reported that she was happy that the football games speakers no longer blast at her home. Also requested that Wetherbee work with academic advisors for student-athletes to ensure the students are reading the course syllabus.
- Most recent fiscal year revenue was just under \$6 million.
- Wetherbee asked if there is a general feeling that athletics has improved the image of the university.
- Gray asked if the bowl games have been beneficial to the university. Wetherbee responded that the last bowl game was worth about \$12.5 million to the university. They have used the negative aspects of the last bowl game to teach the student-athletes how to deal with emotions and how to function on a large stage. Value is based on how much it would cost if you had to purchase that advertisement time.
- E-sports does not fall under athletics. It will be part of student affairs, academic affairs, and information technology. There will be an EMU team that will compete with other universities.
- Kullberg feels there is a lack of progress in interaction between athletics and academics. Video for recruiting football players resulted in distress among many faculty members as they are struggling under reduced budgets while this showed a "spare no expenses" image of the athletic center. Curran reported that the advisory committee hasn't met with him in the last 2 years therefore an open line of communication between faculty and athletics wasn't there but hope that this will improve now that the committee is meeting. Wetherbee also responded that there are other promotional videos for academic building projects such as Strong Hall and the video created for the SAPC was another building project. Wetherbee stated that the SAPC was on par with other similar universities at the college level, including other MAC schools. Gray commented that faculty are struggling to meet the academic mission due to budget reductions, but there are expenses going to a small number of students, specifically the football portion of the SAPC. Wetherbee explained that while some portions of the SAPC are for football, other teams benefit as well by the renovated spaces vacated by the football team, such as the women's rowing team.
- Barton stated that she has been here a long time and when the President's house was built many years ago, faculty were invited for tours so they could see the building. Recommended that they do something similar for the SAPC.
- Gray expressed appreciation and commended Wetherbee on his fundraising efforts thus far.
- Wetherbee expressed interest in meeting with faculty and staff for additional conversations and reminder that student profiles are welcome.

#### B. Age Friendly University Environmental Scan \*

4:07 pm

Cassandra Barragan, Assistant Professor, Social Work & Director Aging Studies Program

Sarah Walsh, Associate Professor, Health Sciences

- Link to report: [Age Friendliness Study](#)
- University received the Age Friendly endorsement in June 2018.
- Age friendly universities follow 10 principles.
- Reviewed study report (available online).
- Recommendations for: marketing, physical and virtual spaces to create community, professional development opportunities for instructors regarding working with students of all ages, incorporating current and prospective student needs to create growth opportunities, engage

emeritus faculty, staff and alumni for mentoring programs/lectures/investments, accessibility, expanding non-degree offerings, tuition discount programs for older adults.

- Any questions/comments/suggestions can be directed to Cassie or Sarah.

C. Updates from Faculty Senate Executive Board

4:36pm

i. IT committee consolidation\*

- The Senate has appointed faculty to over 100 committees in the last 10 years, many are no longer active. There were several committees that had IT components. These committees are being consolidated. When temporary sub-committees are needed, these would be filled through the members of the main committee.
- The charge of the IT committee as approved by the Executive Board was provided.
- Motion to approve consolidation of committees and to invite remaining members of the computer refresh committee to join the consolidated committee: Winning. Second: Waltz. Floor open for discussion. Previous member of the IT advisory committee stated that the committee has not met in two years with Ron Woody. The new structure could have the committee chair meet regularly with Woody to create more open lines of communication. Motion carries unanimously.

1. Faculty Information Technology Committee- Two at-large\*

- i. Election tabled until next meeting.

ii. Distinguished Faculty Awards process

- Committee was requested to use published policy on application review where all members of the committee will review all applications
- There are 22 applications this year.

iii. Game Above money to colleges/library

- There is a concern that some colleges may be using the GameAbove donation for travel, while moving current travel funds to another area. Provost Longworth did not approve this as it was not her intent nor the intent of the donors. Longworth requested that if this issue has not been resolved then she needs specifics. It is possible that this issue has been resolved at the college level. Provost to send out communication regarding the donation and its intended use.

VI. **Committee Chair Reports\***

- Tabled until next meeting.

VII. **Provost's Update**

4:56 pm

- Provost would like to discuss "wish list" for future donations at another meeting. Request for senators to speak with colleagues to gather ideas/needs/wants. She is also speaking with students for ideas.
- Enrollment appears to be improving this year. Applications are increased, acceptances have increased. However, the next 3 months will be important to see if this becomes an increase in enrollments.
- Travel to China: EMU has a long standing relationship with a university in Wuhan province. There is a policy on campus regarding level 3 and level 4 travel warnings – China is currently a level 3 and Wuhan is a level 4 travel warning. University sponsored travel to China is being reviewed.
- EMU political science students won the National Championship in the Moot Court Trial Competition.
- Faculty research awards are due soon. Funding has increased over the last 4 years.
- Climate surveys – would like to discuss preliminary reports at subsequent meeting.
- Would like to start a discussion about two potential policies:
  - o 120 credit degree, instead of 124.

- o Automatic drop policy where if students don't attend class for a certain number of days at the beginning of the semester rather than any additional action.

VIII. **Announcements**

IX. **Adjourn**

5:10 pm

\*Attachments available in shared drive:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Jq8XeeBSfF3XvIv-DK3IviSRGcWLTpNF>