

10-24-2018

Faculty Senate Minutes, October 24, 2018

Faculty Senate



Eastern Michigan University
Faculty Senate Minutes (approved 11/14/18)

Session-4

3.00—5.00 pm October 24th, 2018 300 Student Center

Present: Pressley-Sanon, Reedy, Eisenbach, Elton, Kashliev, Hayworth, Curran, Peavler, Karpiak, Staunton, Millan, Spragg, Mistry, Trewn, Willis, Rahman, Banerji, Barton, Leon, Burton-Hoyle, McVey, Mannari, Ferdousi, Kustron, Becker

Guests/Non-Voting: Longworth, Tew, Kullberg, Gray, Carpenter

I. **Approval of the Agenda** 3:08 pm
Motion to approve agenda with addition under item C (AAUP Elections Forum) – Motion carries (0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

II. **Approval of the Minutes of 10-10-2018** 3:12 pm
Motion to approve agenda with proposed amendment and edits – Motion carries (0 opposed, 2 abstentions)

III. **Committee Representative Elections** 3:10pm
University Budget Council –
 • CAS-Arts: Eric Acton, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Literature
 • CAS-Science: Thomas Waltz, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology

Academic Affairs Committee – Motion to accept nominees (Herman Tang – COT; Andrea Zakrajsek - CHHS) by acclimation – motion carries (0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

IV. **Reports from Standing Committee Chairs** (Barton, Curran, Evett, McVey, Pawlowski, Trewn) 3:20pm

A. Athletics (Curran)

- Currently in the process of looking back at last year's athletic issues in order to identify which issues should be addressed this year.

B. Graduate Council (McVey)

- Graduate Council began a discussion about the numbers of Conditional Admits to Graduate Programs which then led to a concern about Condition 4 – Low GPA. It was clearly recognized by both the Grad School and Graduate Council that many times students will mature in their profession in ways that do not reflect the effort (or lack of effort) they had put in during their Undergraduate years and often those matured students are admitted. The question is whether or not to develop a policy that spells this process out or to continue to rely on other less measureable factors.
- Associate Vice Provost Wade Tornquist announced that a Pathway has been approved that will make it easier for international students who graduated from a 3-year (90 hour) program to come to EMU. They will take an advisor-selected package of 10 UG courses that lead toward a Certificate and will be automatically accepted into the Master's program upon completion. This is a new program and fairly unique in relation to other universities.
- We have also started to survey our colleagues about how Graduate level Program Coordinators are compensated with released time.
- The next Graduate Council meeting will be held on November 30 in Porter 217.

C. Institutional Issues (Barton)

- Live streaming capacity – effort to put live screening into Pease is more complicated than expected. At next EEFC meeting they will address issues related to the project. In order to get

capital funding approved, the request must be given to the BOR soon so that it can be approved in November. Instead of a stationary unit in Pease, the committee is looking into a moveable cart to provide mobile live streaming capacity on campus.

D. Student Affairs (Trewn)

- Working with Student Leaders Group on evaluating student priorities, satisfaction with services, etc. Will present at BOR meeting tomorrow. Has been in communication with Student Government, and they have been invited to Senate meetings, but SG President has a class that conflict. However, now that there is SG VP we may have that person come or have SG identify an alternate to attend. SG presence at Senate is important.

E. Senate Budget Committee (Carpenter)

- BOR is going to be asked to approve a financial aid plan, which is down from last year; working on system so that faculty as a whole can go in and do queries related to budget data. Carroll also reported about HLC request around the university's financial component. BOR has a draft of that report, and Carroll is hoping to share that with the SBC before releasing the final report in December (the gist of that is that the university has money from the parking agreement, so we're out of the red zone financially).

V. Discussions

- A. Michigan and regional peer institution enrollment trends (Carpenter) 3:25 pm
- In response to faculty interest in enrolment trends (as identified in Senate questionnaire), HEIDI data was analyzed to provide a sense of EMU's enrolment trends in relation to other Michigan institutions.
 - HEIDI Data handout which shows that enrolment is down across the state, but it appears to be down more at EMU.
 - Moving forward, these numbers may provide a reflective space to consider what might be causing our enrolment decline and what can we do moving forward. They may also provide insight when Enrolment Management (Kucera) comes to Senate to address some of these concerns issues/concerns.
 - HEIDI data is available to anyone who would like to work with it.

- B. Initial discussion, impact of tenured/tenure track faculty erosion (Gray) 3:49 pm
- FS President began an initial discussion about the faculty erosion to determine whether this is a worthwhile topic for a future Senate meeting.

Discussion:

- EMU-AAUP President said that the percentage of courses taught by faculty versus FTLs and PTLs, as well as the number of faculty, has remained static, so the faculty has not been eroded.
- Faculty size requires careful consideration about the number and type of academic programs we offer (in order to operate more efficiently). IRIM data shows percentage of faculty covering classes relative to other teaching staff
- Some departments are experiencing expertise gaps (due to faculty separation, etc.) and are unable to offer classes that are required in particular programs. Fewer faculty in departments means that more time may be spent on service and teaching at the expense of research
- Possibility of introducing visiting professorships to fill some of the voids, despite this not being common past practice (adjuncts have typically been hired to fill immediate teaching needs) due to the unique boundaries of their contracts
- Interdisciplinary programs, although beneficial, may pose challenges to faculty because they may take their attention away from teaching in their home programs

Senate members were asked to talk to their department colleagues in preparation for a discussion at a future Senate meeting

- C. Senate-Sponsored AAUP Election Debate

- FS President introduced the idea of Senate hosting a forum of nominees for EMU-AAUP elections, particularly for nominations for union President, Vice-President, and Treasurer

- Discussion:
- Support for this based on desire to know candidates better given the importance of this election (negotiations in summer 2019)
- Opposition included concern that this should be done by the union's election committee, short time frame, conflict of interest (members of Senate are running for union EC), availability of candidates

Motion for Senate to invite AAUP nominees to an open forum under the condition that all nominees are in agreement and available and questions will be submitted and vetted by Senate EB so long as members of the EB are not running for President, Vice-President, or Treasurer - Motion carries (20 in favor, 7 opposed, 2 abstentions)

VI. **Provost's Minutes** 4:05 pm

- A. Report on Provost's Workgroups (McVey)
- PowerPoint and Handout summarizing key points from the Provosts Work Groups. Work groups consisted of faculty, students, and staff. Recommendations of the work groups were shared (which included, among many things, hosting a "best practices" summit, reviewing the graduate admissions program, reviewing online course offerings, etc.)
- B. Response to workgroups report and Academic Affairs Plan (Longworth)
- PowerPoint and Handout summarizing Provost's goals based on work group recommendations. Goal of work groups was to answer the question: how do you get people meaningfully involved in conversations early in the process? Provost made several points, including the need for fostering student success, creating an expectation of reporting, the need for course mapping, supporting co-curricular activities and programs, etc.
 - This response is meant to open up a dialogue about the report. Take reports back to your faculty and reflect on it and we'll continue talking.

VII. **Announcements** 5:04 pm

- A. Responses to call for Senate Agenda items, next steps
- B. Call for suggested topics & participation, Faculty Affairs Committee Board of Regents Meeting,
- 12/14, topic deadline 10/31/18 – proposed topic "Community Engagement," but if other ideas send it to Senate email. Also, if interested in participating in the Community Engagement presentation, email Suzanne.
 - Encouraged Senate to come to 11:15 Welch October 25 for the BOR Faculty Affairs meeting/presentation.

VIII. **Adjourn** 5:06 pm

