

4-6-2011

Resolution 20110406.1

Faculty Senate

Resolution 20110406.1: Faculty Senate Resolution Regarding University Budget Cuts

The Governor has proposed a 15%, or larger, cut in state appropriations to Eastern Michigan University. In addressing the budget challenges entailed in these proposed cuts, the Faculty Senate strongly supports the following resolution adopted by the University Budget Council on February 8, 2011:

The UBC recommends that all EMU spending decisions, including any budgetary reductions, be made so that student services and academic offerings are supported to the fullest extent possible.

In support of the UBC recommendation, the Faculty Senate strongly believes that a combination of cuts in spending and revenue enhancements can be made totaling around \$11 million without negatively impacting student services or academic quality. While hardships will inevitably result, those hardships should not be allowed to harm the core academic mission of educating students. The future of the University depends upon making the right strategic choices now.

We propose that the University meet the projected \$11 million budget shortfall through the following actions:

1. **Decreasing total spending on Administrative-Professional costs by \$3 million,** through a combination of eliminated positions or reduced salaries to bring EMU closer in line with the ratio of administrative to faculty compensation at our peer institutions.
2. **Cease General Fund subsidies of the Eagle Crest conference center and golf course (an Auxiliary Fund), saving around \$600,000.**
3. **Cut the general fund subsidy to the Athletics Department by \$3 million.** The EMU general fund supports a larger percentage of Athletics spending than any other member of the MAC conference. EMU also has the lowest ticket sales of any member of the MAC conference indicating little community support for these activities. Thus, the burden of such large subsidies cannot be justified.
4. ***Eliminate \$1 million in General Fund subsidies of the Convocation Center which primarily services activities of the athletic department.***
5. **Additional savings of \$3.5 million across all university divisions should be made without cutting the core activities of the University, which entail academic offerings and students' educations.**

Recommended savings: \$ 3.0 million in administrative expenses \$ 0.6 million in Eagle Crest subsidy

\$ 3.0 million in General Fund Athletics subsidies

subsidies

enhancements

\$ 1.0 million in General Fund Convocation Center

\$ 3.5 million in other reductions and revenue Total: \$11.1 million

Background information for item 1:

\$60.00

\$50.00

\$40.00

\$30.00

\$20.00

\$10.00

\$0.00

EMU Administrative & Professional Compensation FY 2009-10 \$58.80 Actual and Projected using A/P \$ to Faculty \$ Ratio at Comparables

EMU\$*ratio \$48.76

\$0.00

\$10.04

Difference

\$45.01

\$13.79

EMU Ratio = .6504

CMU Ratio =.5394

GVS Ratio=.4979

Source: Michigan House & Senate Fiscal Agencies, "Public University Summary Data," 2 - 1-2011, p. 39.

For every dollar EMU spends on faculty compensation (all instructional staff), \$0.65 is spent on administrative and professional compensation. Comparable figures are \$0.54 at CMU and \$0.50 at GVS (Grand Valley State). Both CMU and GVS are of similar size and offer similar degrees to those offered by EMU. Total AP compensation at EMU was \$58.8 million in fiscal 2009-10

and faculty compensation was \$90.4 million. Keeping faculty compensation at \$90.4 million, if EMU spent \$0.5394 on AP for each \$1.0 spent on faculty as does CMU, AP compensation at EMU would be \$48.76 million for a saving of \$10.04 million. The savings using the ratio of 0.4979 from GVS is \$13.79 million.

Million \$

Resolution 20110406.2

Resolution Concerning “Program Review”

The provost has undertaken a process of reviewing programs for potential elimination or merger. To that effect, the provost sent an e-mail to all faculty on 3/25/2011 under the subject line of "Request to Review Programs". This e-mail included a list of programs to be reviewed for "the purpose of considering phase out, consolidation, or growth." On 3/30/2011, Susan Moeller, on behalf of the AAUP, sent a letter to Provost Kay requesting that he provide the information and criteria used to form that list. The Faculty Senate hereby requests that the provost provides the same information to the Faculty Senate, including a description of the process used to generate the list in the 3/25/2011 e-mail, including data, selection criteria, and pertinent remarks forwarded by college deans.

The Faculty Senate stresses the need for adequate time for due deliberation in this process, starting with faculty input at the department level and working up through the college faculty advisory councils and the Faculty Senate as stated in the EMU/AAUP Master Agreement.

Resolution of Support for the Graduate Council’s Action to Increase the Minimum GPA Needed for Admission to Graduate Programs

The Faculty Senate supports the Graduate Council’s recent action to increase the requirements for unconditional admission to a graduate program as stipulated in their resolution:

RESOLUTION: Each graduate program establishes its own admission requirements, including a minimum GPA. Students that do not meet minimum requirements may be admitted with conditions and may be eligible for graduate financial aid; see specific program requirements. The Graduate School is urged to set a minimum cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 2.7 on a 4.0 scale, or 3.00 in the last half of the undergraduate program for admissions.

Resolution Concerning the Potential Effect on Academic Affairs of Cost-Cutting Measures by Other Divisions

The recent move to eliminate the van program by Physical Plant will have a significant, negative, and costly impact upon several academic departments within Academic Affairs. The Faculty Senate urges EMU’s administration to ensure that all divisions sufficiently consider the possible impact of any budget cuts they might make on the academic environment at Eastern. The potential for any such adverse effects should be communicated to the provost’s office so that appropriate input may be gathered from affected colleges and departments.