

11-1-2006

Resolution 20061101.1

Faculty Senate

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Daryl Barton was unanimously appointed to speak for the University Faculty Council at the Public Affairs session of the next meeting of the Board of Regents on the afternoon of November 14.

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A resolution to be presented to the Board of Regents was proposed and seconded. Discussion included the following.

- Some individual faculty members have been contacted to see whether they would be willing to get together with some of the members of the Board of Regents. This strategy is an attempt to divide and conquer the faculty, and such meetings are inappropriate. This strategy should be kept in mind as a context in deciding on the resolution to be presented to the Board of Regents.
 - The public dispute between the regents and the faculty would have been avoided if there had been Shared Governance.
 - Some departments thought the resolution was not strong enough, whereas others thought it was too strong.
 - Some faculty are hoping that dialogue between faculty and regents is possible, and that this should be the goal of our actions; whereas others believe that discussion is not likely, and we should be planning alternate actions.
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- Some representatives indicated that the failed negotiations were the immediate instigation for the resolution. However, there is a systemic problem with the Board of Regents in their failure to support EMU's central academic mission, and this systemic problem needs to be addressed independently of the outcome of the negotiations.
 - The public disrespect of the Board of Regents for the faculty hurts the public image of the university and has very negative consequences for the university in its ability to attract students and funding from Lansing.
 - A great deal of money is being used for purposes other than the central mission of EMU. This includes the College Place plan and the money to be donated to the Athletic Department.
 - Specific suggestions need to be added to the resolution.
 - Perhaps there should be a series of resolutions during different meetings of the University Faculty Council dealing with different topics, such as the limited voice of Academic Affairs at the Strategic Operating Council, the at-will service of administrators which makes them hesitant to speak up, support for the union as the bargaining agent for the faculty, etc. Faculty members are urged to think about resolutions which would be appropriate and meaningful.

The resolution as originally proposed was defeated (9-17-4). A motion was made to modify the distributed resolution to include an emphasis on Shared Governance and a list of issues that need to be addressed was approved (22-5- 2). A committee of David Clifford, Ross Nord and Daryl Barton will redraft the resolution to reflect the intent of the motion.