

4-27-2006

Resolution 20060427

Faculty Senate

Resolution 20060427: Resolution of the Eastern Michigan University Faculty Council

Whereas : There is a strong and rich history of Faculty participation at Eastern Michigan University in all matters pertaining to the university. The Faculty Council existed as the Faculty Senate prior to the introduction of the AAUP on campus. Faculty Council has been included in every EMU-AAUP Master Agreement since 1978. The University Faculty Council has been specifically recognized and granted authority as the representative voice of faculty. In 1992, the membership of the Faculty Council was expanded to include a representative from each academic department/program on campus. Shortly thereafter, new by-laws were approved by the Faculty Council and incorporated into the EMU-AAUP Master Agreement. The Faculty Council President, the Provost and VP of Academic Affairs, and the EMU-AAUP President all signed the Faculty Council By-laws recognizing the by-laws as the instrument of shared governance.

Whereas : The University Faculty Council By-laws are based in part on the *Joint Statement on the Government of Colleges and Universities*. The text of this statement is available on the national website of AAUP. In accordance with the *Joint Statement*, the by-laws of the Eastern Michigan University Faculty Council list three broad areas of joint responsibility: determining General Education Policy, Internal Operations, and External Relations. Under Internal Operations, the by-laws specifically list “(f.) participate in the selection of academic officers at the level of Dean and above and (g.) advise the appropriate authority on retention of the above mentioned officers.”

Whereas : The recent decision to change the status of the Provost and VP of Academic Affairs from *interim* to *permanent* was done without providing any opportunity for formal faculty input in the discussion. This action disregarded the established representative voice of the Eastern Michigan University faculty and is at odds with the principles of shared governance. It has been repeatedly stated that faculty are the first and foremost representatives of the university. As the representative voice of faculty, the Faculty Council should have been invited to engage in dialogue concerning the appointment of their number one representative in the administration.

Therefore be it resolved:

1. The University Faculty Council affirms the process for faculty input laid out in the

University Faculty Council By-laws, and therefore does not accept the process by which this decision was made.

1. The University Faculty Council views this process as an unintended exception and does not accept it as a precedent. This was affirmed by President Fallon in his presentation to the University Faculty Council.
2. We accept President Fallon’s offers:

- o To sign the University Faculty Council’s By-laws as a reaffirmation of the University Faculty Council’s role, and to distribute them to the SOC;
- o To make a statement to the campus community affirming a shared process for decision making; and

o To continue having conversations with the University Faculty Council about the role of shared governance on the EMU campus.

A Second Resolution of the Eastern Michigan University Faculty Council

We commend and respect Don Lopnow's long service to EMU and look forward to working constructively with him according to the principles of shared governance.