

2009

Faculty Council Minutes, April 15, 2009

Faculty Council

UNIVERSITY FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES – MEETING TWELVE

April 15, 2009, 3 – 5 p.m.

310 Student Center

www.emich.edu/facultycouncil

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487-0196

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m.

II. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously.

III. Approval of the Minutes of April 1, 2009

The minutes were approved (20-0-2).

IV. Election of the Next Faculty Council Vice-President, Secretary, and Membership Coordinator

A. At the last meeting Matt Evett was elected president by unanimous acclamation.

B. Vice-President. Mahmud Rahman and Mark Higbee were tied on the first ballot. On the second ballot, Mahmud Rahman was elected.

C. Secretary. Alida Westman was elected by unanimous acclamation.

D. Membership Coordinator. David Crary was elected by unanimous acclamation.

V. Appointments

A. Calendar Committee. Two representatives are needed. Both Daryl Barton and Lidia Lee are interested. Russ Larson will check his e-mail to see whether others are interested, and then he will send out the names of those interested, and representatives will let him know electronically whom they vote for.

VI. Gratitude expressed.

A. Plaque presented to Don Loppnow

To express the gratitude of Faculty Council to Don Loppnow for his service to EMU, a plaque was presented to him.

B. Card Presented to Russ Larson

To express the gratitude of Faculty Council to Russ Larson for his excellent work as president and for making Faculty Council more proactive, he was presented with a card which was signed by the representatives.

VII. Graduate Council Position Statement on the Graduate School – Tim Brewer

The proposal from Graduate Council that the Graduate School should be continued and not be cut to balance the budget was approved unanimously (24-0-0).

VIII. Proposal to Change the E-Grade to an F-Grade

Given the use of the E by Eastern and the fact that an F frequently indicates a failing grade, Donna Bobcean from Registration presented a proposal at the last meeting to change the E grade to an F grade. The proposal passed (19-0-1).

IX. Continuous Improvement of Administrators – Don Loppnow

There is agreement in principle on the evaluation of the dean, provost, and president. The survey created by the Faculty Council committee chaired by Margrit Zinggler is an excellent one; however, further thought needs to be given to the procedure for getting the survey distributed and what to do with the data. This will happen during the summer. In the Fall, the suggested process will be presented for feedback to Faculty Council, and then the process will be implemented.

X. Report by EMU President Martin

President Martin began by thanking Faculty Council for the feedback provided to her. She appreciated the invitations to visit departments/schools, and she requests that feedback of all kind continues.

The president went on to make the following points.

- **Facilities..** The facilities need to be improved. A listing of the projects to be done sums to \$436 million.
- **Liquid cash.** Liquidity was preserved, and the assets came back in cash.
- **Outstanding debt.** The bank which provided the letter of credit was downgraded, leading to an increased interest cost of \$75,000/week. The challenge is to find a better arrangement. It is fortunate that the money for Mark Jefferson need not be borrowed until later this year.
- **Credit hour challenge.** The 5000 credit hour challenge was not met completely, but the result was close enough (4000 credit hours) that cost cutting was not needed. Some staff positions were left unfilled temporarily to save money.
- **Expenditures.** They are on track.
- **Finding revenues.** In Washington D.C., representative Dingell has been very helpful, and all eight projects discussed with him will be put online as earmarks which he endorses. In Lansing, legislators are more favorably inclined to EMU. The term limits have helped. President Martin has spent considerable time in Lansing. Students also have gone, including on their own to visit legislators. Despite the economic downturn, both gifts and grants are up. Don Loppnow will be asked to fundraise with a goal of 50 million.
- **Safety is being improved.** Improvements have been made and relatively cheaply. For example, door alarms were put on some outside doors. In other areas cameras, which were only slightly more expensive, were installed which provide better angles and resolution. EMU and Ypsilanti police are working together. Also a command center has been implemented on the fourth floor of Pierce hall from which different types of emergencies can be handled. The new police station will be in the towers.
- **Cyclical review of everything.** A schedule is being set up, so that every aspect of EMU will receive period review.
- **Three searches are happening and a fourth is planned.** The current searches are for (1) Provost and Executive VP, (2) VP for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services, and (3) VP for Communications. Karen Simpkins plans to retire and, as a result, a new chief officer for Human Resources is needed.
- **Budget.** The governor would like to wait until the revenue estimation has taken place before deciding upon the state budget. Gary Olsen from the House Fiscal Agency is working with a three year scenario. It is anticipated that the state support to universities will be flat, because not-cutting is a prerequisite for stimulus money. However, financial aid from the state to students still can be cut. Pell grants are up, as is aid to veterans. A problem comes from the decreases in credit hour production which EMU has experienced during the past years. Stabilizing enrollment is critically important, because expenditures due to personnel, energy cost, etc., are expected to go up 9 million/year. Faculty may be asked who is willing to work part-time.
- **Questions and Answers**

Smoking. President Martin indicated that she would like to create attractive places for smokers to smoke and leave their butts, because there is no attractive place to smoke at this time, and smokers are leaving the butts everywhere.

Lawsuit by a student who was dismissed from a counseling program. President Martin indicated that it always is disconcerting to lose a student, especially one who is only four credits away from graduating. Beyond this there are FERPA privacy rights, and she does not want to discuss an ongoing lawsuit.

Why a VP for Communications? President Martin indicated that this is the result of the Butzel-Long report which indicated that both internal and external communications at EMU are inadequate. This VP also will oversee marketing and media relations.

Criteria for the new provost. President Martin indicated that he should be an able administrator, because he is in charge when she is elsewhere. He should be a fierce advocate for Academic Affairs and be willing to go toe-to-toe with the other VPs. Also he should have experience with a large, heterogeneous campus, because EMU is large and very heterogeneous. She trusts the committee to make a good decision of whom to bring to campus.

Continuing Education. She does not know a great deal about the various satellite sites which EMU has, but she plans over the summer to study these centers.

Program Review. She does not know much about it and, as a result, cannot answer questions about it.

Her major accomplishments and goals. President Martin is very proud of the capital outlay from Lansing. A request for renovating Strong also has been sent in. The alumni are eager to help us, and media coverage is much better. She is delighted to have gotten to know EMU, and she admires the high morale and cooperation which exist on campus, despite the bad economic news. EMU is a great place, with a lot of diversity, and people say what they think. Perhaps this is why the faculty are portrayed as feisty. She goes out into the community on her new bicycle and responses are very positive there also.

Her major goals are to stabilize the budget, have good relations with the Board of Regents and with the various external constituencies, such as the alumni.

XI. Questions for Faculty Council – Russ Larson

A. Interim Provost

If an interim provost is needed, who should it be?

Discussion revealed that preference should go toward someone who has had experience with the job, or who at least has been a dean, for whom the interim position would not be a conflict of interest, and who is not a candidate for the position. In order of frequency the following names had been sent to Russ Larson: Bob Neely, Russ Larson, David Mielke, Barry Fish, Shawn Quilter, Jackie Tracy, Jeanne Thomas, and David Woike. Others had received the names of Bill Miller and Vernon Polite.

The additional point was made that it may be difficult for an interim to step back when the new person comes in and yet continue to work in the same office. Also the current job which the person does needs to be done by someone.

B. Provost Search Committee

Nine candidates were interviewed by phone and three will be brought to campus. This may not be possible before the end of the term. The website is excellent and

up-to-date. The following resolution was proposed by Mark Higbee, seconded by David Crary, and passed (19-1-1).

The search process should take place as expeditiously as possible and be finished by the middle of May if at all possible. Candidates should not be brought in during the week between the Winter and Spring terms. The interviews should be publicized and made available as streaming video on the website.

C. Textbook Ordering Problems

The bookstore managers will provide information at the May meeting.

XII. Future Meetings

A. Faculty Council Executive Board

- a. Meets with the Executive Board of EMU-AAUP on April 17.
- b. Meets on April 29 at the Faculty Council Office, 3 – 5 p.m.

B. Faculty Council

- a. will meet the third Wednesday in May 20
- b. perhaps will meet the third Wednesday in June 17

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alida Westman

Present: M. Rahman (ACC); J. Eisenbach (BIO); S. McCracken (CMTA); D. Chou (CIS); M. Evett (COSC); D. Crary (ECON); R. Larson (ENG); W. Tucker (ENGIN TECH); C. Mayda (GEO/GEOL); M. Higbee (HIS/PHIL); S. Levine (HPHP); V. Howells (HEALTH SCI); J. Nims (LIBRARY); D. Barton (MKT); P. Howard (MATH); J. R. Smith (MUSIC & DANCE); S. Nelson (NURS); E. Behringer (PHY/AST); E. Martin (PLS); A. Westman (PSY); L. Lee (SPED); Pam Becker (TECH STUDIES); M. Zinggeler (WORLD LANGUAGES)

Ex-Officio: Don Loppnow (PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VP OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS)

Quests: Sue Martin (EMU PRESIDENT); Tim Brewer (CHAIR OF GRADUATE COUNCIL); Russell Jones (PRESIDENT OF THE LECTURERS UNION)

Absent: AFS; ART; CHEM; L & C; MGMT; SAC; SWK; TED; WGST