

2003

Faculty Council Minutes, March 19, 2003

Faculty Council
Eastern Michigan University

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FACULTY COUNCIL
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Faculty Council Minutes
March 19, 2003
Recorder: G. Ahlbrandt

- I. The meeting was called to order at 3:01 pm with an acknowledgement and congratulations to Millie Lintner for receiving the distinguished faculty award for service.
- II. The Minutes of 2/19/03 were approved.
- III. **GUEST Provost Paul Schollaert** attended the meeting to update the council on the current status of the university's budget. He reported that the cuts in the state appropriation for next year amount to 10%, or \$8.76 Mill. He distributed a planning document which outlines how academic affairs will deal with the projected shortfall in the general fund. The plan assumes a 10% tuition increase for planning purposes only. The academic affairs budget shortfall is \$3.7 Mill (this is less than the proportional share of the budget cuts.) Nearly half of this money (\$1.45 Mill) will be saved by cutting 22 unfilled faculty lines. After the searches were suspended on Feb. 13 a Taskforce for Tenure Track searches ranked the unfilled searches so that the decision which positions would be filled would be based on programmatic criteria instead of luck of timing. The Provost assured that as soon as more money is available new faculty lines will be created. Other savings will come from cutting \$0.7 Mill in mostly AP positions, forgoing an increase in graduate assistantships, cutting \$0.55 from research support, and \$0.6 Mill in travel, Summer Institute and other items which are funded through recoupment money.
The Provost emphasized that now the state appropriations form an even smaller portion of our budget "for every \$1 in tuition, we get 75¢ in state appropriations."
- IV. **Action Items:** (1) Student Involuntary Administrative Withdrawal. The FC supported the proposal. The motion passed. 27 Yes, 1 No, 0 Abstentions. (2) Revisit B4 from the Transfer Task Force. The motion passed. 26 Yes, 1 No, 0 Abstentions. Council members were urged to pass on suggestions for the refinement of the Credit Explanation form to Alida Westman. (3) Student Evaluation Taskforce Report. John Knapp gave his impression of the process to administer the student evaluations. He suggested a low tech solution if the council wanted to maintain the flexibility to customize the questions: The forms would contain the 2 core item questions and generic questions "department supplied question 1, .. instructor supplied question 1" . During the student evaluations the instructor would show an overhead with the actual phrasing of the questions. Only one version of the forms would be printed and duplicated and the students would fill in the name of the instructor and the course and the section ID. The forms will be scanned and totaled and the reports distributed to the instructors as usual. A straw vote

indicated that the council members favored such a solution. (4) Academic Issues Committee Recommendation concerning Sabbatical Leave Guidelines. Postponed.

- V. **President's Report:** Council members were invited to attend the Distinguished Faculty Awards to be held on March 26, at 3:00 p.m. in the McKenny Ballroom. The University Strategic Plan will be available for a first look at the next Council meeting and there will also be an election for the President of Faculty Council for 2003-2005. President McCracken said that she would accept a nomination to serve another term.
- VI. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. and the next meeting will be held on April 2, 2003.

PRESENT: M. Kramer ACC, V. Okafor AFS, M. Ruggiero ART, S. Sonstein AHP, H. Zot BIOL, T. McDole BTE, E. Butch CHEM, S. McCracken CTA, M. Lintner COSC, R. Sipe ENGL, I. Ahmad CIS, M. Zinggeler FLABS, L. Sickles-Taves GEO/GEOL, J. Armstrong HPERD, K. Chamberlain HIS/PHIL, C. Haddad INDT, G. Mitchell IT, R. Baier HALLE, R. Hill MGMT, D. Barton MKT, G. Ahlbrandt MATH, P. Alford NURS, J. Wooley PHY/AST, B. Grady PLS, A. Westman PSY, M. Wedenoja SWK, R. Orrange SAC, M. Beebe SPED, C. Burns TED, S. Norton WMST.

GUESTS: M. Tack President's Office, J. Knapp PSY

ABSENT: ECON, HECR, MUSC