

2008

Faculty Council Minutes, March 5, 2008

Faculty Council

UNIVERSITY FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES – MEETING NINE

March 5, 2008, 3 – 5 p.m.

310 B Student Center

www.emich.edu/facultycouncil

rlarson@emich.edu

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 February 6, 2008

The minutes of February 6, 2008, were approved unanimously.

IV. Environmental Sustainability – Chris Mayda

The following motion to establish a task force was passed unanimously.

Because sustainability is critical to ensuring the health of our nation and planet, many American colleges and universities have demonstrated leadership by becoming models of energy efficiency and environmental stewardship.

Be it therefore resolved that the EMU Faculty Council will appoint a three person committee to investigate, evaluate, and report on EMU's present commitment to sustainability and to make recommendations for future sustainability initiatives at EMU. The committee will report its findings by the beginning of the Winter 2009 academic term.

V. President's Report – Russ Larson

A. Feb 20 Open Forum on the Future of the University. Don Loppsnow gave a very informative talk. Regrettably many faculty did not attend.

B. The Faculty Forum on the Budget and Academic Priorities – March 10, 2008

The university budget and tuition/fees are not determined until July. The support provided by the State of Michigan also becomes clear only at a very late. Therefore, it is important to create contingency budgets, so cuts do the least damage. Further, the whole institution needs to be considered, including the health center, but not the counseling center, the different institutes, etc. At the department/school level, department heads also should be making contingency plans with faculty input. Last year's cut to the whole institution was about 5.4 million, and the current scenario is likely to be between 1 and 12 million. Don Loppsnow will present more information on the different scenarios at the budget forum.

The recommendation was made that an external financial auditor be hired to reconcile the administration and AAUP budget financial analyses. Bob Neely indicated that this was a suggestion worth investigating.

Another recommendation was that Bob Neely announce the budget forum to the Department Heads. He said he would do so by putting it into *EMU Today*.

C. Presidential Search

The Presidential Search Committee is very much dismayed by the report in the Ann Arbor News which indicated that Judge Shelton is among the finalists. This article may have raised questions about the search process and suggested that there is a local, favorite candidate and perhaps dissuaded external candidates.

The following resolution was approved unanimously for Russ Larson to share with the Presidential Search Committee.

Questions have been raised about the presidential search process and the disclosure of Judge Shelton's candidacy for the EMU presidency. The Faculty Council regrets the way in which Judge Sheldon's candidacy was made public and how it reflects on the overall search process.

VI. Strengthening Support for Scholarly Activity at EMU: A Proposal

The goal is to provide more support for research at EMU, because support has been eroding, library resources have decreased, better faculty expect research opportunities at the university where they choose to go, and grant administration requires a tremendous amount of work on the part of the researcher, especially if the grant is large.

Graduate Council is looking at this proposal, and perhaps this can be an AQIP project. Bob Neely is thanked for his many efforts to promote research, interdisciplinary programs, streamlining the two-semester sabbatical leave, etc.

Dean Jeanne Thomas and Dan Burns will present this proposal at the next Faculty Council meeting.

VII. Budget Committee – David Clifford

A. Budget Resolution for Vote at the Next Faculty Council Meeting

The motion indicates that department heads, school directors, and deans should discuss enrollment trends and implications of these trends with Faculty Council representatives and faculty in order to prepare for anticipated societal need and market demand.

There now also are data from graduating seniors about satisfaction with their experience.

B. Explanation of the Academic Affairs Accumulated, Structural Deficit for Vote at the Next Faculty Council Meeting

The motion is to send to faculty an explanation of the structural deficit. The suggestion was made that the budget of Academic Affairs needs to be put into the larger context of the whole university budget and how priorities are determined.

VIII. Technology Committee – Pam Becker

Faculty are well represented on the committees and serve as co-chair. The current Chief Information Officer is interim, and a permanent one may have his or her own ideas about the committee structure.

Standardizing software for portfolios, accreditation, and online teaching would help, but it also is a workload issue, because it takes a tremendous amount of work to convert courses.

Representatives are asked to read the report carefully for the next Faculty Council meeting.

IX. Revision of the University Faculty Council By-Laws – Marti Bombyk

The committee consists of Marti Bombyk, Matt Evett, Russ Larson, Ethan Lowenstein, and Mahmud Rahman. The intent is to clarify and update the procedures in order to increase council's efficiency and safeguard council's integrity. Each meeting three changes will be presented for vote at the following meeting. The first three changes were presented and concern (1) change of name to Faculty Senate, because the name causes less confusion. (2) a mission statement, (3) contractual authority. When all

changes have been made, the whole set of changes will be voted upon, and then EMU-AAUP needs to approve the changes, and the EMU-administration needs to indicate that they are willing to work with the Faculty Senate as conceptualized.

Representatives are urged to download the original bylaws.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alida Westman

Present: M. Rahman (ACC); M. Peters (AFS); M. Reedy (ART); J. Eisenbach (BIOL); T. Brewer (CHEM); S. McCracken (CTA); D. Chou (CIS); M. Evett (COSC); J. Rice (ECON); J. Texter (ENGIN TECH); R. Larson (ENG); G. Voght (FLABS); D. Clifford (HEALTH SCI); C. Mayda (GEO/GEOL); M. Crouch (HIS/PHIL); S. Levine (HPHP); S. Dugger (L & C); E. Owen (Library); L. Isenhour (MGMT); D. Barton (MKT); E. Behringer (PHY/AST); A. Lottie (PLS); A. Westman (PSY); L. Rocklage (SPED); M. Bombyk (SWK); P. Becker (TECH STUDIES); S. Simoes (WGST).

Ex-Officio: Robert Neely (INTERIM PROVOST).

Guest: D. Wong (GRADUATE COUNCIL)

Absent: MTH; MUS/DANCE; NURSING; SAC; TED