

2008

Faculty Council Minutes, March 16, 2008

Faculty Council

UNIVERSITY FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES – MEETING TEN

March 19, 2008, 3 – 5 p.m.

310 B Student Center

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487-0196

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:09 p.m.

II. Approval of the Agenda

Some items were reordered, and then the agenda was approved unanimously.

III. Approval of the Minutes of March 5, 2008

The minutes of March 5, 2008, were approved (22-0-1).

IV. President's Report – Russ Larson

A. The Open Budget Forums have made a tremendous difference in how people are approaching the budget and in the openness of discussions.

B. Presidential Search

The Board of Regents is taking the five recommendations from the Search Committee and selecting the candidates to bring to campus for interviews. The candidates are very diverse. Some are traditional academic candidates; others are not. Most likely the candidates will be brought to campus only at the end of the Winter term, because they are being vetted thoroughly.

C. Marshals for the Spring Commencement

The following are expected to appoint one person to serve as marshal for the morning ceremony: African American Studies, Art, Biology, Chemistry, CTA, COSC, Economics, Engineering Technology, English, FLABS, and GEO/GEOLOG.

The following are expected to appoint one person to serve as marshal for the afternoon ceremony: Accounting, CIS, HPHP, Health Science, L & C, MGMT, MRK & LAW, Nursing, Social Work, Special Education, and Teacher Education.

V. Institutional Strategic Planning Council: Directions and Vision – Bob Neely

The charge is to merge the institutional six directions which EMU developed with the four enduring values to support the new vision and to incorporate the developed strategic directions into the nine AQIP categories and the Higher Learning Commission's five criteria for accreditation.

Feedback is requested especially about the vision. It indicates that "EMU will be the institution of first choice for all its constituents." The constituents might be the students who chose EMU, the alumni who give to EMU, the local community which turns to EMU for advice, the state legislature as they consider and impact training of teachers and education of pupils.

This write-up will be sent out electronically for feedback.

VI. Continuing Improvement Project: Strengthening Support for Scholarly Activity at EMU – Jeff Schulz and Dan Burns

A task force of 10 people will look at the possibility of an AQIP project to promote research. This proposal will be sent out electronically for feedback. Comments included the following.

- More faculty would be willing to serve if most of the work is done during the first few months of the Fall term rather than during Spring and Summer. Faculty use

Spring and Summer to do research, and the administrators can do a lot of work ahead of time.

- The due date for AQIP projects is in the middle of the Fall term.
- To be a good AQIP project, the problem which the proposal would solve needs to be stated clearly.
- Accreditation of the Business College requires research and subsequent publication by the faculty.
- Workload is an issue. Faculty's teaching load is very high. Sometimes faculty teach five days per week. It is recommended that Faculty Council, Graduate council, and AAUP work together to consider workload and workload equivalencies in order to recommend best practices and faculty schedules. Wade Tornquist has information about course load equivalences.
- Writing research proposals is work intensive. Further, as the FRF are currently implemented, a request for 25% release time requires as much work as requesting 100%. Perhaps it would be better to make it possible for department heads or school directors to provide the lower levels of release time to enable people to work on research.
- The type of research which can be promoted best needs to be considered. For example, EMU might be better at basic research inspired by practical problems which will be used to solve these practical problems.

VII. Budget – David Clifford, Wade Tornquist, Bob Neely

A. Efforts are oriented toward procedures for building a budget and what to do if there is a budget cut.

B. Academic Affairs Budget

Previous cuts. Academic Affairs has suffered so many cuts that it is not possible to cut further. Other parts of the university will have to be cut.

Budgeting process. The double budgeting of CE needs to be corrected and the instructional budget will be done differently. Cuts, if there are any, will be strategic. Whatever is not strategic to the mission of EMU will be cut.

Suggestions. Discussion led to number of suggestions.

- Give a certain amount of money to each department/school, and let them handle the distribution of release time, larger sections, etc.
- We need to know what it costs to run a department, which overhead needs to be covered, and what the breakeven point would be for enrollment.
- Instead of competing with community colleges, work with them to create programs where students transfer to us after they do their first two years at the community college.
- In order to decrease the rate of drop outs after the second year, tuition for third year students should be lowered. To compete effectively at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District, tuition for Continuing Education offered there should be lowered.
- Package deals should be created as we have with China.
- Use hybrid courses
- Provide courses which are longer and cover the material in fewer days.
- Offer courses at times which students want, e.g., Sundays.

C. Explanation of the Academic Affairs Accumulated, Structural Deficit.

The motion to send to faculty an explanation of the structural deficit passed (21 – 0 – 2).

D. Department Head and School Directors Are to Arrange Discussion of Enrollment in their Departments/Schools.

The motion passed unanimously that department heads and school directors should discuss enrollment trends and implications of these trends with faculty, including their Faculty Council representative, in order to prepare for anticipated societal need and market demand.

E. The UFC Budget Committee Forum.

The committee would like to organize a meeting to share concerns about how the budget cuts were made in the past. The intent is to minimize internal competition and provide the best support possible.

F. Exit Data from Graduating Seniors.

There now are data from graduating seniors about satisfaction with their experience at EMU. There is enough data so that departments and schools can learn about the experience of their own graduating seniors. This information will be provided on CDs to preserve confidentiality. The comparison of information from the whole university and methodological information also will be provided.

For more than 58%, EMU was their first school of choice. Close to 80% plan to pursue a Master's degree, and close to 90% stay in Michigan; therefore, these students may come back to EMU.

VIII. Technology Committee – Pam Becker

A. Faculty Council Representation on IT Governance was approved 20 – 0 – 3. One faculty member from each college and one from the library will serve on the Academic IT Systems & Services Advisory Committee, 3 on the IT Architecture & Infrastructure Advisory Committee, and 3 on the Nonacademic IT Systems & Services Advisory Committee. **As a result, volunteers now are needed.**

B. On the University Course Management Committee, there should be one person from each college. Connie Schafer already has approved this change. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Portfolio Assessment is being worked on.

D. Faculty's Technological Needs. Faculty should let Pam Becker know if they have technological needs.

E. E-mail selection was presented by Matt Evett. He reported that there are two systems being considered. One is Google g-mail and the other is Zimbra which has been written by the Merit people who provided connections between universities. In EMU Today there is information about how to try these two systems. Next week Tuesday the choice will be made known. Implementation is expected by Fall.

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

Changes will be forwarded for input to EMU-AAUP President Howard Bunsis and Interim Associate Vice-President for Academic Human Resources Rhonda Kinney Longworth before they are voted on at Faculty Council. Minor matters are of no concern to them, but contractual issues are. Input is contractual. Howard Bunsis is oriented toward maximizing input, and Rhonda Kinney Longworth would like to keep it the same until the next contract negotiations. Faculty Council definitely would like to promote as much goodwill as possible. The first proposed changes consist of a change in the name

from Faculty Council to Faculty Senate and a mission statement. The second set of changes consist of asking the EMU President to give an open state of the university presentation and the EMU provost a comprehensive presentation on academic affairs once each term. Representatives and their alternates are to be tenured faculty members who are committed to the council's mission. They are elected by April 15, and the person who is outgoing or reelected is responsible for reporting the representative to Faculty Council. Representatives are asked to make sure that they inform the people they represent and to get their input.

X. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Alida Westman

Present: M. Rahman (ACC); M. Reedy (ART); J. Eisenbach (BIOL); L. Kolopajlo (CHEM); S. McCracken (CTA); D. Chou (CIS); M. Evett (COSC); J. Rice (ECON); J. Texter (ENGIN TECH); R. Larson (ENG); M. Zinggeler (FLABS); D. Clifford (HEALTH SCI); C. Mayda (GEO/GEOL); M. Crouch (HIS/PHIL); S. Levine (HPHP); E. Owen (Library); L. Isenhour (MGMT); P. Alford-Trewn (NURS); E. Behringer (PHY/AST); A. Lottie (PLS); A. Westman (PSY); L. Rocklage (SPED); M. Bombyk (SWK); P. Becker (TECH STUDIES); E. Lowenstein (TED).

Ex-Officio: Robert Neely (ASSOCIATE PROVOST & ASSOCIATE VP FOR RESEARCH).

Guest: Wade Tornquist (EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATE TO THE PROVOST FOR OPERATIONS); Jeff Schulz (ASSOCIATE DEAN OF CHHS); Dan Burns (PROGRAM RESEARCH & ANALYST ASSISTANT)

Absent: AFS; L & C; MKT; MTH; MUS/DANCE; SAC; WGST