

2021

## Faculty Senate Minutes, March 24, 2021

Faculty Senate

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**Eastern Michigan University**  
***Faculty Senate Minutes (approved 4/14/21)***

**Session 13**

3.00—5.15 pm March 24, 2021 via Zoom

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Present: Banerji, Barton, Bavery, Brewer, Brock, Carpenter, Chou, Corsianos, Curran, El Sayed, Elton, Evett, Ferdousi, Flowers, Foster, Goodman, Judd, Lee, McCleary, McVey, Millan, Neufeld, Nims, Pressley-Sanon, Reedy, Saldanha, Sheerin, Waltz, Welsh, Zakrajsek

Non-voting Present: Gray, Kustron, Gellasch, Carroll, Kullberg, Tew, Valdes

- I. **Call to Order** 3:02 pm
- II. **Approval of the Agenda**
- Motion to approve agenda: Pressley-Sanon. Second: Banerji. Yes: 25. No: 0. Abstain: 0. Motion carries.
- III. **Approval of the Minutes: [3/10/21](#)\***
- Motion to approve minutes: Banerji. Second: Pressley-Sanon. Yes: 23. No: 0. Abstain: 2. Motion carries.
- IV. **Appointments and Elections** 3:05 pm
- A. Faculty Senate Budget and Resources Committee - COB Megan Endres
1. Motion to approve by acclimation: Barton. Second: Sheerin. Motion carries.
- V. **Discussions**
- A. **Federal Research Conflict of Interest Policy Update** 3:08 pm
- Sonia Chawla Wright, Research Compliance Officer  
Wade Tornquist, Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies and Research Research
- [Board Policy 5.4.1 Conflicts of Interest in sponsored projects rationale and changes](#)
1. This update is part of the current review of all policies under the purview of the Provost's office.
  2. The NIH has been checking at the university and faculty levels for inappropriate or unreported conflict of commitment. The main issue is overlapping time commitments – for example, having an 8 month appointment with one project and another concurrent appointment for 8 months that would be more than 12 months (one year).
  3. This policy will apply to all sponsored work (research or otherwise) through grants or other contracts.
  4. Question if this is a result of the previous presidential administration. Response that this is a bipartisan effort and it is not going away with the change in administration.
  5. Question if this policy discourages international relationships with research projects. Response that international collaboration is still encouraged, but they need to be documented and processed through the Research Compliance.

6. Suggestion by Mohamed that the policy should state that all research personnel must comply with the conflict of interest policies of each grant, why write a specific policy instead of a general policy? The policy was created to cover requirements for any many funding sources as possible, it creates a lowest common denominator, so some sources will not require as much as we do, but it will cover more than necessary.
7. Question about external work, such as journal reviews, grants reviews, and if it qualifies as conflicts. Response that providing
8. Vote to approve the policy revision: Yes: 20. No: 3. Abstain: 3.

B. Update on COVID Federal Relief Funds  
Mike Valdes, Chief Financial Officer

3:46 pm

1. Federal funding

- a) Since March 2020, total of \$89.9 million (\$8.7 was from the state to replace the reduced state appropriations) – of this \$34.2 million is a pass-through to students.
- b) Used for housing refunds, EMU-CARES funds, waived online fees for Fall 2020, WEMU, child care, food pantry.
- c) Most recent funding approved March 11, 2021 – anticipate more instructions on what is allowable for these in summer 2021.
- d) Future updates and more information on the funding and uses can be viewed here: <https://www.emich.edu/heerf/>

2. COVID impact on EMU Budget

- a) Revenue impacts: Student credit hours reduced more than expected, reduced auxiliary revenues (housing, dining, convocation center, etc), waived online fees
- b) Increased expenses include PPE, space changes, testing
- c) Anticipating 19.7 million revenue shortfall in FY21
- d) FY21 Budget Actions
- e) Utilized workshare, aggressive cost reductions, froze or reduced salaries to AP staff, savings from reduced travel and physical plant operations reductions
- f) Future budget challenges: continued decline in SCH (reduces tuition, housing, dining revenue)
- g) Three year projected deficit projected to be \$39.4 million.
- h) Floor open for discussion:
  - (1) With federal money, where are we? Discussion around the various budget numbers and ways to evaluate the situation. Concluded that we are still experiencing a shortfall.

(2) Has the Owen building sale been finalized? No, it is not final. Faculty offices were moved out of Owen because the sale was scheduled to close in December 2020, but did not.

C. Academic and Student Affairs Budget Update 4:27 pm  
Jim Carroll, Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Administration

1. Scheduled credit hour declined more steeply than anticipated. Since 2013, a decline of 23.5%. Decrease of 9% in faculty over same time period.
2. Reviewed FY20 college revenue and expenses. Spent \$152 million in academic and student affairs.
3. Question if the low revenue for COB is resulting from the lack of lower UG courses, however the net revenue for the school is higher than CAS, but the cost per CH is also much higher than CAS resulting in a lower realized revenue. This results in COB losing money.
4. Are international students being targeted for online programs to increase enrollments? Most of the typical international students want to have a traditional on-campus experience. It is difficult to get a visa for an online program. EMU has limited online programs that they could take from their home.

VI. **Committee Chair Reports** 5:02 pm

A. Technology Issues (Evelt) [Report](#)

1. Reviewed proposal to prioritize replacement of desktops with laptops for next computer refresh. Suggestion to create a “package” that includes the docking station, monitor, and other equipment necessary to work with the laptops. Any feedback can be sent to Matt Evelt.

VII. **Provost's Update** 5:08 pm

- A. Fall schedule: draft is released on 3/26. Request to consider if any courses that are currently planned for online that could be in-person to encourage enrollment, especially at lower UG level.
1. Concern that different information is being received, as some faculty offered to switch to in-person and were told the schedule could not be changed. The Provost responded that there is still the opportunity to change courses and will follow-up with College Deans.
- B. Game Above: pledged 6 million, received 4 million. The gift associated with the CET renaming has not been finalized or paid – expected that it will be paid over 5 years. Clarification that the naming was done in accordance with the Board Policy, as recognition of the gifts over the last year, not only the \$5mil pledge.

VIII. **Announcements**

- A. If you are unable to continue on Senate for the 21-22 academic year, please make sure your department holds elections in April, per the Senate Bylaws
- B. Officer Elections for Secretary, Membership Coordinator, and Vice President will be held at the April meeting. Please send an email to [faculty\\_senate@emich.edu](mailto:faculty_senate@emich.edu). Must be a senate representative or alternate in 21-22 to serve.

C. Simulation Animation and Gaming Move

1. [Catalog change notification](#)

D. Housing RFQ Update

1. [Housing RFQ](#)
2. [Message to Regents/Smith](#)
3. [Smith Response](#)
4. [Smith 12/22/20 Response](#)

E. Campus Billboard Outsourcing Documents

1. [Provost's message](#)
2. [Operating agreement](#)
3. [Key points document](#)

IX. Adjourn

5:31 pm

Documents in [3/24/21](#)

**Next full Senate Meeting: 4/14/21**

**Topic: Faculty Senate Session 13**

**Time: Mar 24, 2021 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

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