

2021

Faculty Senate Minutes, June 23, 2021

Faculty Senate

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Eastern Michigan University
Faculty Senate Minutes (approved 9/15/21)

Session 16

3.00—5.15 pm June 23, 2021 via Zoom

Present: Banerji, Barton, Brewer, Brock, Carpenter, Corsianos, Elton, Evett, Ferdousi, Flowers, Foster, Johnson Bavery, , Kolopajlo, Kustron, Lee, McCleary, Millan, Mohamed, Neufeld, Nims, Patrick, Pressley-Sanon, Saldanha, Sheerin, Speelman, Spragg, Trewn, Waltz, Welsh, Winning, Zakrajsek.

Non-Voting Present: Gray, Smith, Higbee, Jones, Longworth, Tew, Gellasch.

- I. **Call to Order** 3:00 pm
- II. **Approval of the Agenda**
- Motion: Carpenter. Second: Pressley-Sanon. Yes: 28. No: 0. Abstain: 0. Motion carries.
- III. **Approval of the Minutes: [5/12/21](#)***
- Motion: Neufeld. Second: Zakrajek. Yes: 27. No: 0. Abstain: 1. Motion carries.
- IV. **Appointments and Elections**
- Seeking nominations for Graduate Council Chair for 21-22. All other positions on the executive board have volunteers.
- V. **Discussions**
- A. President Smith Questions and Answers 3:05 pm
1. The current strategic plan is not a complete re-write of the former plan, rather it is an update of the previous plan. Specifically, it adds more measurements to analyze or create data.
 2. Student housing – the quality of the housing facilities does not match the cost students pay for the housing. President Smith reported that progress has been paused and feedback has been received from faculty and further delay in updates to housing is not acceptable. An RFP has been released and will be accepted from four companies identified during the RFQ process.
 3. Plan for the fall is to reduce distancing guidelines to 3 feet. Plexiglass barriers will stay through Fall semester. Most teaching spaces have a minimum of 6 feet between the lecturer and the student seating. State legislature is not going to allow required vaccinations, so this will not be a requirement for return to campus.
 4. Voluntary Separation Program – package details are being sent this week. It is unknown how many faculty will participate. Plan is to replace only those positions as needed, but all separations will not be replaced. The program is intended to reduce faculty size in coordination with decreasing student credit hours.
 5. Floor open for discussion:

- a) Gray asked about doing a smaller trial project. Response from Smith that smaller project proposals are being considered, based on what ideas are presented from the companies.
- b) What actions is the President's office taking in regards to the President's Commission on Campus Climate and the delay of publishing the final report? Smith responded that the report has been written and will hopefully be released soon.
- c) Barton: Where is the Owen building sale in process? The buyer had rights of refusal based on possible tenants. As far as moving out, the proposal to use Boone Hall was not acceptable to the COB faculty so the administration is now looking at alternate options.
- d) Mohamed: EMU is an institution of opportunity, but to do this we need to have control of the affordability.
- e) Patrick: Regarding student housing, are there mechanisms that could be put in place to ensure vulnerable populations from being priced out of housing? The RFP will have multiple requests, such as a freshman housing proposal and a full housing proposal. The idea is not to gentrify the housing to create facilities that our students can not afford, particularly those with zero family contribution on FAFSA.
- f) Carpenter: Statement that being a member of the RFQ/RFP committee does not equal support for the process. There are multiple ways to save money and for private companies to make money., such as building lower quality structures that will wear out faster, or charging students fees that they otherwise wouldn't have incurred (such as parking tickets).
- g) Can you comment on any budgetary shortfalls in athletics from last year and possibly for this coming year which could further impact academic units and how these are being remedied? The last year of athletics had reduced travel and reduced spending due to the pandemic. Athletic spending has decreased under AD Weatherbee. Smith is concerned over NCAA and the name/image/likeness rulings, potential issues around total cost of attendance.

B. [Approval of Faculty Senate Budget and Resources Committee Annual Report](#) (Carpenter) 3:55 pm

- 1. Second reading of the report. Question regarding why this is so different from what is presented by the university administration. Response that this is a cash-flow analysis which is a different way of looking at the financial data.
- 2. Vote to affirm the committee report: Yes: 25. No: 1. Abstain: 1. Report is affirmed.

C. [Committee on Campus Privacy Committee Preliminary Report](#) (Carpenter) 4:05 pm

- 1. Reviewed the draft report with main findings as well as recommendations from the committee.
- 2. Vote to affirm the committee report: Yes: 27. No: 0. Abstain: 1. Report is affirmed.

D. [Preliminary Report from the EMU President's Commission on Women Covid-19 Task Force Covid Impact Survey](#) Marilyn Corsianos & Melissa Jones 4:10 pm

1. The Women's Commission created an Impact Survey to identify areas of impact from COVID and ways the university can support faculty and staff. There were 273 responses.
2. Senators expressed gratitude for the work undertaken by this committee.
3. Vote to affirm recommendations of Task Force: Yes: 28. No: 0. Abstain: 1.
4. Vote to share task force results with administration for follow-up: Yes: 28 No: 1. Abstain: 0.
5. Vote to share results of task force with EMU-AAUP for follow-up: Yes: 28. No: 0 Abstain: 1.

VI. **Provost's Update**

4:30 pm

- A. Enrollment Update – as of today: down just over 10% for fall. Larger decreases in graduate programs than undergraduate – which follows national trends. Freshman enrollment has increased compared to last year.
 1. Barton requested that faculty who retire are publicized for recognition by their peers
 2. Spragg: With the anticipated loss of UG students to community colleges, are there any programs being looked at to attract graduate students to the university and make it more affordable? At this time, they are looking into grants for additional graduate assistant positions and possibilities for partnering to fund graduate programs. They are increasing marketing efforts for graduate programs. Provost's office would like to meet with individual programs to review possibilities for them growing and moving forward.
 3. Pressley-Sanon is there consideration about professor safety around teaching particular topics, such as critical race theory? Plan is to continue this topic and have conversations about how to support
- B. Return to Campus Planning – written messages will be sent with plans as they are made over the coming months.
- C. Faculty Positions – will be reviewed in the Fall after the faculty departures are known. Some searches will be done, but the number will be determined by departures and budget.

VII. **Committee Reports**

5:11 pm

- A. Task Force on Campus Climate, Race and Diversity Issues Update (Patrick)
 1. Working on creation of video tools to help faculty and students navigate sensitive topics.
 2. Christine Neufeld will be the Task Force Chair going forward.

VIII. **Announcements**

- A. Consider special HLC meeting Wednesday 9/1/21, 3-5pm
- B. [Response to President Smith's response to policing report](#) (Corsianos)
- C. [Response from Senate Executive Board to Housing Decision](#)
- D. Committee Chairs are selected by the Senate President, and confirmation of the slate is held in the fall. All positions are open for nominations. There is currently no one identified to chair Graduate Council

E. For compensation for Summer meetings, please fill out the [form](#).

IX. Adjourn

5:22 pm

Documents in [6/23/21](#)

Next full Senate Meeting: 9/1/21 (special HLC meeting)

Topic: Faculty Senate Session 16

Time: Jun 23, 2021 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://emich.zoom.us/j/88284450670>

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