

2021

Faculty Senate Minutes, October 6, 2021

Faculty Senate

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Eastern Michigan University
Faculty Senate Minutes (approved 10/20/21)

Session 2

3.00—5.15 pm October 6, 2021 via Zoom

Attendance: Gray, Curran, Reedy, Millan, Neufeld, Gellasch (guest), El-Jarrah, McCleary, Lucy, Welsh, Waltz, Elton, Logwood, Nims, Winning, Brewer, Foster, Ferdousi, Walsh, Saunoris, Walsh, Barton, Pressley-Sanon, Carpenter, Lee, Bavery, Corsianos, Longworth (guest), Tew (guest), Soltani, El-Sayed, Saldanha, Evett, Lovence, Flowers, Spragg, Isenhour, Banerji

- I. **Call to Order** 3:02 pm
- II. **Approval of the Agenda** Moved by Barton, Second Millan. Vote: **Passed** unanimously.
- III. **Approval of minutes from 9/1, correcting** Rob Carpenter's name: Moved by Carpenter, second Winning
Vote: **Passed** 13 Yes, 0 No, 7 Abstaining
- IV. **Approval minutes from 9/15/21.** Moved by Barton, second Millan Vote: **Passed** 17 Yes, 0 No, 3 Abstaining
- V. **Appointments and Elections** 3:05 pm
 - A. Motion to elect all of the following. Moved by Corsianos, second Barton Vote: **Passed** unanimously
 - 1. University Budget Committee UBC
Eric Acton (CAS-Arts), Joe Badics (Library), Caren Putzu (CHHS)
 - 2. Faculty Senate Budget and Resources Committee :
Melissa Jones (CAS – Arts)
 - 3. Human Subjects IRB
Quentin Hunter (COE; Leadership and Counselling)
 - 4. Writing Intensive Vetting Committee
Kasim Korkmaz (CET), and Angela Staples (CAS)
 - 5. There was a brief discussion about how many candidates from each college were available for the DEI committee votes
 - B. Seeking nominations for:
 - 1. Faculty Senate Budget and Resources Committee: CAS-Science & CET: Motion to elect Tom Waltz for CAS, and Tierney McCleary for CET Moved by Corsianos, second Carpenter. Vote: Approved unanimously.
 - 2. Title IX Research Implementation Committee
 - 3. Faculty Senate Academic Issues Committee: CET
- VI. **Discussions**
 - A. Provost's Report
 - 1. Provost Longworth shared a Powerpoint about Strategic Planning

- a) Described a rationale for Strategic Plan in terms of design and strategy – we are faced with serious new challenges; where do we want to go?
- b) Provost mentioned several committees she wishes to create for strategic planning, and which will need faculty representatives. Save the steering committee, these will be one year appointments; the steering committee will be a 4-5 year commitment

- (1) Need activity survey, and a committee to assess EMU's social and economic impact on the community want faculty reps

- (2) Need a steering committee for goals and objectives, and a committee for all five areas of interest

Question: How do we stabilize? What would be a good retention goal?

Answer: Graduation is more important than retention, since we have part time students. Still 75% would be a minimum rate target. Would like to increase graduation rate as well. For this discussion, the Provost would like to focus on Academic Affairs division.

Comment: It can be hard to think about budget without thinking about how other parts of the university affect resource allocation. Answer: Point taken, but the Provost noted without a strategy even allocation of resources within the division is difficult.

2. COVID related topics

- a) The Provost referred to the COVID dashboard on EMU's website. Positive cases on campus are quite low, 5, with 26 in the last week over the entire EMU community. There is no evidence of classroom transmission, but there are social cases of transmission.
- b) The Provost described of the vaccination policies for different groups of students (resident vs. commuting);

Questions: Should those who get a booster update their information with EMU?

Answer: Yes.

Could tele-health be opened before classes start for the day? Answer: Working to be open by 8am; need to hire more staff.

If I have a student who tested positive and was in my class earlier in the week, how would I find out? Answer: we notify any close contact, not necessarily everyone in the class. Instructors are typically too far away to be close contacts.

How are we checking on student testing and/or vaccination status? Answer: Students were required to provide info by Sept. 30. Each upload is being verified by hand. Those who did not upload a card received a message to come in for testing.

Comment: Perhaps we should encourage posting assigned seating for each class online. Academic issues committee could perhaps address this and related issues. What can we do to improve communication around this issue?

Question: What company does the COVID testing? Answer: Not known, will forward the answer. The rapid test is not PCR based.

Deferred more questions until the next meeting.

3. Cozen-O'Connor report on Title IX at EMU should be available in November

B. Update from Task Force on Campus Climate, Race and Diversity Issues (Neufeld)

1. Introduction to the Resource Guide for faculty, and to the video series (part I was released on September 27th, and the rest are scheduled to appear this fall).
2. Please share these resources with faculty

Question: Are faculty mandatory reporters for sexual assault? Answer: You must report the name of the victim to the Title IX office, not to the police. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Question: Can/should we share this resource guide with students? Answer: No, because we included staff names whom students should not contact directly. Student government has their own guide for students

C. Possible Privatization of Campus Housing (Carpenter)

The RFP-review deadline was extended, with a probable Board of Regents vote in December. There appears to be a lot of momentum to complete the housing privatization (in the absence of concerted opposition). FSEB is considering various ways to voice faculty concerns.

D. Consider Possible Next Steps on Draft No Confidence Resolutions

1. President Smith
2. Chief Financial Officer Mike Valdes (revised)
3. Chief of Staff Leigh Greden
4. Responses to questions submitted by Forum registrants

Gray: What do you as senators need to know in order to vote yes or no on these on behalf of your department? We could do more forums, or office hours...

Question: Should we target the Board of Regents instead? Answer: The composition of the board has changed since these issues arose, so perhaps that would be a second step if the current board doesn't respond to the concerns raised.

Question: What possible consequences are there of this vote? Is it just symbolic? What is the possible negative fallout? Answer: No way to say for certain, but there is risk if we do not vote as well. But if we want meaningful faculty governance we should try.

Comment: Perhaps senators should hold a forum with their own departments. We should emphasize why we view the vote as a positive, pushing our university in the right direction.

Comment: What is the final objective? Answer: Look at the HLC Assurance argument. Strategic plan, diversity, and shared governance have weaknesses. The resolutions address these.

Question: Could we put this to an all-faculty vote? Answer: FSEB will consider.

Question: What do other campus constituencies think? Answer: We believe the lecturer's union may support this. The remaining groups have not weighed in. What about students? Answer: Greden serves as the advisor to student government, and most students do not see the larger budget picture or impact.

Comments: Another faculty forum would be helpful; and possibly a Google form where faculty can leave comments.

Comments: What about a teach-in about privatization? Will consider if volunteers to support the event come forward.

5. Plan for a possible vote in November.

6. Please refer to the Faculty Senate Response to HLC Assurance Argument for the bigger picture on these issues.

VII. **Adjourned**

5:17 pm