

2021

Faculty Senate Minutes, October 20, 2021

Faculty Senate

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Eastern Michigan University
Faculty Senate Minutes (approved 11/3/21)

Session 3

3.00—5.15 pm October 20, 2021 via Zoom

Attendance: Gray, Curran, Pawlowski, Pressley-Sanon, Soltani, Winning, Welsh, Logwood, Porter-Szucs, Banerji, Tew (guest), Longworth (guest), Lige (guest), Gold(guest), Bumpus (guest), El-Jarrah, Flowers, Waltz, McCleary, Foster, Ferdousi, Corsianos, Reedy, Gellasch, Neufeld, Barton, Baverym Zakrajsek, Braun Marks, Saunoris, Elton, Lovence, Saldanha, Brewer, Spragg, Brock, Carpenter, Evett, El-Sayed.

Call to Order 3:00 pm

I. Approval of the Agenda Moved by Pressley-Sanon, second by Corsianos. Vote: **Passed**
unanimously.

II. Approval of the Minutes from 10/6/21 Moved by Winning, second Soltani. Vote: **Passed** 16 Yes, 0 No, 3
abstained.

III. Appointments and Elections 3:05 pm

A. Seeking nominations for the following. Calls will go out:

- i. Faculty Athletic Representative
- ii. Academic and Student Affairs Strategic Planning Committees
- iii. Writing Intensive Vetting Committee (COE)

B. Motion to confirm Title IX Research Implementation Committee Members: Marilyn Corsianos, Solange Simons, Sally Hoyle, Elizabeth Loomis, Daniel Clemans, Kimberly Barrett, Christine Hume, Elizabeth Donovan, Barbara Walters. Moved by Corsianos, seconded by Barton. Vote: **Passed** unanimously.

C. Appointment of Caren Putzu to University Budget Council. Moved by Corsianos, seconded by Carpenter. Vote: **Passed** unanimously.

D. Nominations for the MAC Outstanding Faculty Award for Student Success are now open. The FS Academic Issues Committee will review the nominations and help the chosen candidate apply.

E. Discussion of number of faculty assigned to the Academic and Student Affairs strategic planning committees.

The Provost is open to reducing the number of required faculty if representation is adequate. The plan is for a quarter release for committee chairs in a winter term. We need strong faculty representation on the steering committee. The steering committees will be participatory and data driven. The intent is that the strategic plan will affect resource allocations.

IV. Discussions

A. Public Safety Update. Matthew J. Lige, Executive Director of Public Safety / Chief of Police.

i. Chief Lige said he is pleased to be joining EMU, and is impressed by the commitment of the institution to developing in improved public safety model, respecting accountability, transparency, collaboration, inclusion.

Q: Can you discuss the recent shootings near campus, and any plans in response.

A: Lige gave detailed description of the on-campus and off-campus incidents. Police presence has been increased in certain areas. Considering reducing the hours the basketball court is open, where one shooting occurred. DPS will have a representative on the Mayor's committee on gun violence.

Q: What is your approach to the racial dynamics of increased police presence on campus?

A: Providing training on racial disparity in treatment of citizens by police. Officers also use body cameras. Lige is trying to engage student groups who have concerns in this area. The police oversight committee will be helpful. Lige also intends to align EMU's policing policies with best practices, and to get the DPS accredited.

Q: Are weapons allowed on campus?

A: Neither firearms nor concealed carry are allowed on campus. (Exceptions for police officers and certain ROTC training.)

Q: Can DPS facilitate student access to buildings after hours for computer labs (e.g. in Strong)? Is there a policy for this?

A: Lige did not know if there is a formal policy for building access. But it seems reasonable that if a student calls public safety requesting access, and the academic unit has approved, we can provide access.

Q: What are your thoughts about privacy, especially with the cameras around campus; and racial bias in facial recognition?

A: Re facial recognition is a flawed tool; we do not use on our campus cameras (there are over 1000). We can submit images to the State police, and they can match against an existing profile. This is not 100% identification. EMU have not used this option since Lige joined, but he would like to have the tool available, despite the fact it is flawed. Video is reviewed only as needed. Eventually the recordings are erased.

Q: What access have the Title IX investigators (Cozen-O'Connor) had to DPS?

A: Most of the contact was before Lige started. There was open access to documents for review and staff for interviews. Lige does not know the exact percentage of staff interviewed.

Q: There was a protest on campus yesterday about sexual assault and fraternities. What is your approach to handling protests on campus?

A: Lige supports student assemblies on campus. DPS provided support for yesterday's assembly at the students' request.

B. Next Steps on Campus Housing (Carpenter)

i. Update.

Most likely, a vote on a preferred partner will come in December. We need alternative channels of input on this issue. Carpenter asked to meet with the President directly about this issue; per the Provost the

President has not received this message yet since he is away from campus.

ii. FSEB point of view.

Gray presented the executive board's point of view. Contrary to claims made by the President, there was no incentive for a contractor to provide a smaller project. Engagement with campus community never really happened, nor has information from the RFP's been shared, which is why we view the process as rushed. (One example where input might be needed: should there be less family housing v. apartments near the athletic complex? The submitted proposals all say less.) Individuals should consider contacting regents directly about their concerns. We are considering a publicity campaign jointly with EMU AAUP.

Q: Should we invite student government leadership to discuss this issue?

A: It is hard to get a representative sample of student opinion, and the current students will have moved on. The financial impact is important and affects future students.

C. Covid Mitigation Strategies Ellen Gold, Senior Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, and Sherry Bumpus, Special Associate to the Provost.

i. Procedures in place for contact tracing and case investigation:

EMU is using Washtenaw County's procedures for case investigation and contact tracing on behalf of the County, which is short staffed. There are many policies in place to keep campus safe. EMU has 1% positivity rate, the County a 5% rate, and IHA system 7%.

Telehealth screens who should stay away from campus: anyone with a positive test, with close contact to a positive individual while unvaccinated, and with COVID-like symptoms.

Case investigation—try to find those individuals whose contact with the infected individual indicates highest risk of spread (during a shedding period). In cases of classroom exposure, only a few students are typically at high risk. Photographic rosters and vaccination records can be helpful in this review. Emphasis is on those unvaccinated. There have been no documented cases of spread via the classroom here.

ii. What faculty should do if a student reports having COVID

If a student tells you they tested positive, encourage them to fill out the COVID-case report and absence-notification forms. This allows the Dean to speak on their behalf, and give the anticipated dates when they can return. Also, faculty should fill out the same report form – let the Dean's office verify their status.

a. Case-report form is via EMU-safe site; direct link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe0MSbLFpTDQhv-J6f7H2wm-hXCqa8AjHP-NzQ6gIEPPFb5Zw/viewform>

b. Absence-notification form for students:

<https://www.emich.edu/dean-of-students/student-support/absence-notification.php>

iii. Vaccine clinic.

Vaccine clinic (including for boosters) will be available on campus Saturday November 6 from 11-3 in Student Center Ballroom. Pre-registration is not required.

Q: How can we find the percentage of the EMU community that has been tested?

A: We do not have access to that precise information; for comparison to other institutions it is not necessary.

Q: What is the definition of confirmed cases on the Dashboard? The percentage does not seem to reconcile with the number of confirmed cases reported.

A: The percentage is of those tested, so is not a representative sample.

Q: What percentage of students is fully vaccinated?

A: Not known yet. Currently, 19 of 2650 students living on campus are not known to be vaccinated or testing.

Q: Can PA's work for telehealth?

A: Yes; but there are issues of schedules fitting for training and getting formal approval with the consulting physician.

V. Announcements

A. Open Faculty Session with Higher Learning Commission, Monday 10/25, 1:30-3pm

Sign up to attend by 10/22. It is helpful to review FS response to the HLC assurance document (in shared drive.)

B. Additional Faculty Forums on the Future of EMU

These will be held Friday, November 5, 3-5pm & Tuesday November 9, 3-5pm. Please register ahead of time.

C. Provost Announcement

Mel Moskovitch will be taking over as head of Academic Human Resources

Adjournment

5:15 pm