

2021

Faculty Senate Minutes, November 17, 2021

Faculty Senate

Eastern Michigan University
Faculty Senate Minutes (approved 12/15/21)

Session 5

3.00—5.15 pm November 17, 2021 via Zoom

Attendance: Curran, Gray, Lucy, El-Jarrah, Millan, Braun Marks, Barton, Kindred, Pawlowski, Waltz, Brewer, Winning, Ferdousi, Foster, Welsh, Saunoris, Reedy, Pressley-Sanon, Longworth (guest), Logwood, Brock, Lee, Saldanha, Neufeld, Tew (guest), Zakrajsek, Bavery, Spragg, Gellasch, Carpenter, McCleary, Jiang, El-Sayed, Welsh, Banerji, Nation, Romero (guest), Elton, Evett, Lovence.

I. Call to Order 3:02 pm

II. Motion to Approve the Agenda Moved by Barton, seconded by Millan. Vote: **Passed** 25 for, 0 against, 1 abstained.

III. Motion to Approval of the Minutes of 11/3/21 (adding Foster to attendance) Moved by Pressley-Sanon, seconded by Soltani. Vote: **Passed** 25 for, 0 against, 1 abstained.

IV. Appointments and Elections

A. Seeking nominations for: Intercollegiate Athletics committee - CET (3 year term), Writing Intensive Vetting Committee (COE), Faculty Senate Academic Issues Committee (CET).

B. Confirm Appointments

1. Elect ASA Strategic Planning Steering Committee Members (One seat reserved for Senate President or Vice President)

Vote: **Elected** Kunal, Davis, McVey, Schulz

2. Confirm Strategic Plan Workgroup Members –

Vote to approve the entire slate as presented: **Passed** 27 for, 0 against, 1 abstained.

V. Provost's Update

A. Faculty searches.

The provost shared a list of approved searches.

- i. Signed off on only 16 searches for now, based on longstanding vacancies and accreditation concerns.
- ii. The provost is concerned with unstable enrollment and wants input from strategic planning committee. Leaving flexibility for the latter to use.
- iii. Would like to make it easier to budget for interdisciplinary positions.
- iv. The long-term plan will include more searches.

B. Update on student vaccinations/disciplinary actions for non-compliance with COVID policy

i. For students who are not compliant, registration is on hold; and the conduct office is working through a list of students who are non-compliant. Faculty will be notified if students should not be attending their class for this reason. Evictions from housing have begun.

ii. The web dashboard will start to show the number of those vaccinated versus those who are getting weekly tests.

iii. Flu (influenza A) is also a concern in our community. Please consider getting a flu vaccination.

Q: What is the provision for maintaining safety when students are barred from classroom buildings?

A: We have a plan for those circumstances. It is easier to deal with these issues outside of the classroom.

Q: There has not been anyone checking COVID screening in Alexander. How is screening being enforced?

A: We are auditing and spot checking; we do not have enough people to monitor every entrance all the time. The online screening form raises awareness. The Provost will look into the coverage of entrances at Alexander.

Q: Are we prepared to cancel commencement if cases spike? Does the audience need to be vaccinated? Would you consider canceling?

A: Note that the ceremony is split in two, is being shortened, and there will be distancing and masking. Guest tickets are being scaled back by 1/3. The event will be live-streamed. We can do this event safely. Audience does not need to be vaccinated. This is a balancing act. We will cancel if circumstances warrant.

VI. Discussions

A. First Reading, Revised No Confidence Resolutions

1. Added language about the displacement of COB due to failed sale of Owen Building. This is based on feedback from the faculty forums.

2. Discussion about best practices in gathering department/school feedback in preparation for vote. Members suggested several approaches, including straw polls of faculty, setting up google forms for feedback, and discussion at faculty meetings. Personal contact gets more response than emails.

Q: Why not a faculty-wide vote? A: We need a formal vote of senate for input.

3. Straw poll on moving forward, and preferred form of voting: To move forward against the President—23 for. Against Grayden—18 for. Against Valdez—22 for. Consensus was that voting via Zoom is acceptable

B. Resolution on Transparency Regarding Private Partners and Conflict of Interest Disclosure
Moved by Curran, seconded by El-Sayed. Vote: **Passed** 97%for, 0% against, 3% abstain

C. Poll on meeting preferences for winter term. 64% in favor of meeting via Zoom.

VII. Committee Reports and Plans for 2021-22 Academic Year

1. Academic issues: tabled

2. Budget and Resources (Carpenter)

We have a fantastic group. Currently we are setting priorities for the year, and will respond to Jim Carroll's budget presentation. We are looking for resources to project HS graduation rates.

3. Faculty Issues (Welsh)

The distinguished faculty award portal will open soon. Planning for a ceremony for distinguished faculty award winners from the last 3 years. Also looking into a CIP codes issue (used to classify faculty) and salary adjustment.

4. Graduate Council (Flowers)

A written report was linked via the agenda. There is new graduate student application software: it is unclear whether mandatory it is mandatory or not to use it. Those using it cannot waive fees for graduate students, as is customary when, for example, already enrolled students pursue an additional certificate.

5. Institutional Issues (Barton)

- i. Outstanding issues include the closure of the Owen building, R25 scheduling.
- ii. We would like to find out if EMU's co-generation plant has generated any savings.
- iii. The flooding in June was destructive: 37 buildings were affected and restoration of Rec I/M undone. Not all of the damage is covered by insurance.
- iv. Understanding capital outlay from the state: No new building will be supported, and building renovation must be STEM-related. EMU must provide first \$10 million, and there must be private funds on top of this. In principle \$30 million from state available.

6. Intercollegiate Athletic Advisory Committee (Spragg)

Spragg has already met with AD Wetherbee, and the full committee meets tomorrow. Current focus is on practice schedules and course conflicts.

7. Student Issues (Pressley-Sanon)

Met with student body leadership. Hopefully next semester they can attend senate. The student code of community responsibility is being revised.

8. Task Force on Campus Climate, Race and Diversity Issues (Neufeld)

Committee for Action on Intersectionality, Race, and Equity CAIRE. Please consider presenting the videos we have produced to facilitate discussions in classes and in departments. Would like to broaden the discussion to include faculty members' experience in addition to students'. Would like to run a mini-conference for diversity in STEM next term. Any recommendations are welcome.

9. Technology issues. Tabled.

VIII. Announcements

A. Documents and links from last meeting are available

[1. Notes from Sherry Bumpus on COVID measures from 10/20 Senate meeting](#)

[2. Slides on budget](#) from Jim Carroll presentation at 11/3 Senate meeting

3. Title IX documents from 11/3 Senate Meeting

a. [Presentation slides](#)

b. [Syllabi language and wallet card information](#)

c. [Links for student training](#)

B. A recording of the session [Who's Your Landlord? Costs and Consequences of Privatization.](#) You must register with your email to use it. We will be editing it down.

Adjourned 4:57 pm.