

2021

Faculty Senate Minutes, December 15, 2021

Faculty Senate

Eastern Michigan University
Faculty Senate Minutes (approved 2/9/22)

Session 7

3.00—5.00 pm December 15, 2021 via Zoom

Attending: Curran, Gray, Neufeld, Longworth (guest), Tew (guest), Waltz, Corsianos, Braun Marks, Allen, Pressley-Sanon, Welsh, Ferdousi, Winning, Wylo, Putzu, Shell (guest), Spragg, Gellasch (alternate), Foster, Logwood, Elton, Pittsley, Lovence, Barton, Banerji, Lee, Saldanha, El-Sayed, Millan, Reedy, Brock, El-Jarrah, Nation, Carpenter, Lucy, Flowers, McCleary, Brewer, Evett, Zakrajsek.

I. **Call to Order** **3:02 pm**

II. **Approval of the Agenda**

Motion to approve agenda: Pressley-Sanon. Second: Waltz

III. **Approval of the Minutes: [11/17/21](#) & [12/1/21](#)***

IV. Motion to approve minutes of 11/17/21: Winning. Second: Pressley-Sanon.

Gellasch requested the following correction: IV.B.1 - only 4 members were elected to the committee.

Gellasch was the last place vote earner and therefore was not elected at this meeting. At a later date, it was corrected that five members were to be appointed and Gellasch was added.

Motion to approve minutes of 12/1/21: Waltz. Second: Winning.

Neufeld requested the following addition: Neufeld inquired whether the committee was addressing faculty training. Tew responded that training was not for instructional staff.

V. **Appointments and Elections** **3:05 pm**

A. Seeking nominations for:

1. Faculty Development Center Advisory - COE
2. Academic Integrity Committee - CET ([details](#))
3. Intercollegiate Athletics committee - CET (3 year term)
4. Faculty Senate Academic Issues Committee (CET)

VI. **Provost's Update**

A. Kathy Stacey will be interim AHR head for at least a year. Intend that the office will be fully-staffed soon.

B. Will announce the full membership of strategic planning committees soon, which begin meeting in January.

C. Couzen-O'Connor estimate that their report will be available by the end of the year, presumably before the next senate meeting.

Q: Will Couzen-O'Connor be brought back to address more recent incidents for survivors who are currently advised to remain silent during litigation?

A: I will raise this with legal affairs and the President. It might not be Couzen-O'Connor, but follow up about any and all incidents is important, regardless of the time that has passed. The focus should be on equal-access to education and student well-being, not just enforcement.

VII. Discussions

A. Summer/Fall 2022 Scheduling . Provost Rhonda Longworth & Chris Shell, Registrar

1. Process is largely unchanged from that used for 2019, but inputs are being made through the registrar's office rather than via the departments, and we rolled forward the 2019 schedule rather than the 2021 schedule.
2. We moved to more centralized processes. Database updates are consolidated rather than piecemeal, and it is easier for us to track room scheduling for purposes of cleaning and support. The goal is to eventually revert to the more decentralized approach.

Q: Adding a course and adjusting a course cap is burdensome, it seems to take a few more days to do this. Departments need more autonomy—when will this happen?

A: Room capacity is harder to judge, though, it is not a question simply of seats.

Q: What about online courses? Why should room capacity matter?

A: It should not take that long. Updates take 4 to 5 hours, usually. Speed is a high priority. Please reach out to the registrar's office directly if there are problems. We do not have a good alternative approach to process all of the information we need to consider.

Q: Is Fall 2019 is being used as a template for 2022? This was perceived as a mandate more than a template at the department level.

A: We always roll forward a previous schedule; we used the most recent pre-COVID schedule since we are planning for the new normal. Need to consider what we are building towards. We have provided percentages about online programming because people have asked repeatedly for guidance, but this was not a mandate, and we recognize departments have better handle on what will best serve their programs. It is important for general education courses to have an in-person experience when possible. We will change things are unsafe.

Comment: Trickle down communication is ineffective in this context. There is an astonishing variety of belief about the deadlines, per the faculty survey we conducted. There is also a sense that the schedule will be held to rigidly.

A: Departments are different, there is no reason they would have the same timelines. Remember we provide back-end deadlines to departments, which departments must build their scheduling process towards.

For purposes of safety and flexibility, the Provost would cancel in-person classes immediately if needed. On the other hand, we should have a more rigid process for how modality is changed once a class starts.

Q: We have learned more in the last two years about what modalities can work, especially in professional and graduate-level programs; why would we use the 2019 schedule as a basis?

A: Changes are fine but it should go through an input process. We need more structure, and the 2019 base is a way of framing what the new structure should be.

Comment: As a program director it would be nice to have the dates presented in your presentation available via the EMU calendar.

B. EMU Library Textbook Affordability Initiative. Kate Pittsley-Sousa, University Library

1. We can help search for open-access options, and the library can purchase ebooks in support of your class; funds were available from student government and GameAbove. The library has a platform for developing open-access textbooks.

Q: What about videos for classes?

A: Not part of this initiative, but check with your subject librarian.

C. Planning for Winter Term

1. Bylaws revision
2. Privacy Committee
3. Committee structure/document sharing portal
4. Officer Recruitment
5. Suggestions: Discuss with Kevin Kucera use of private partners to offer courses

D. Straw Poll: Should commencement be held in person on Sunday: 38% Yes, 42% No, 19% Abstained.

VIII. Adjourned 4:57pm.